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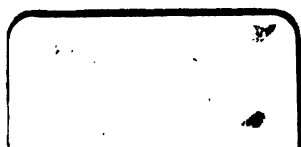
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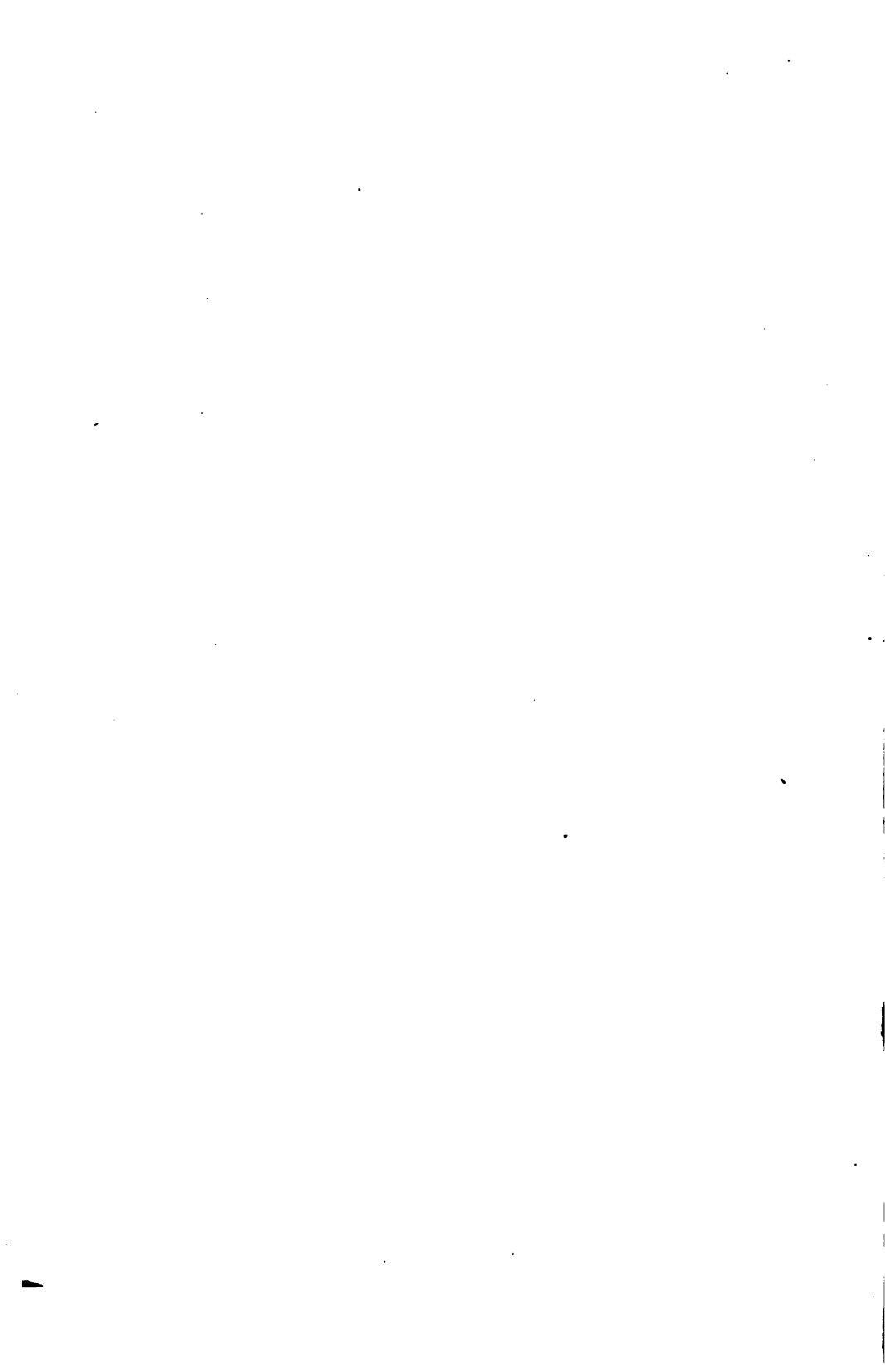
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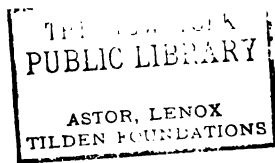
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ALBERT J. RUSSELL.



RUSSELL HOMESTEAD, BIRTHPLACE.



LIFE AND LABORS
OF
ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

A COLLECTION OF WRITINGS
SHOWING SOME OF HIS EFFORTS IN BEHALF
OF HIS FELLOW-MEN.

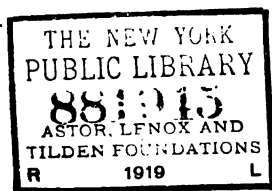
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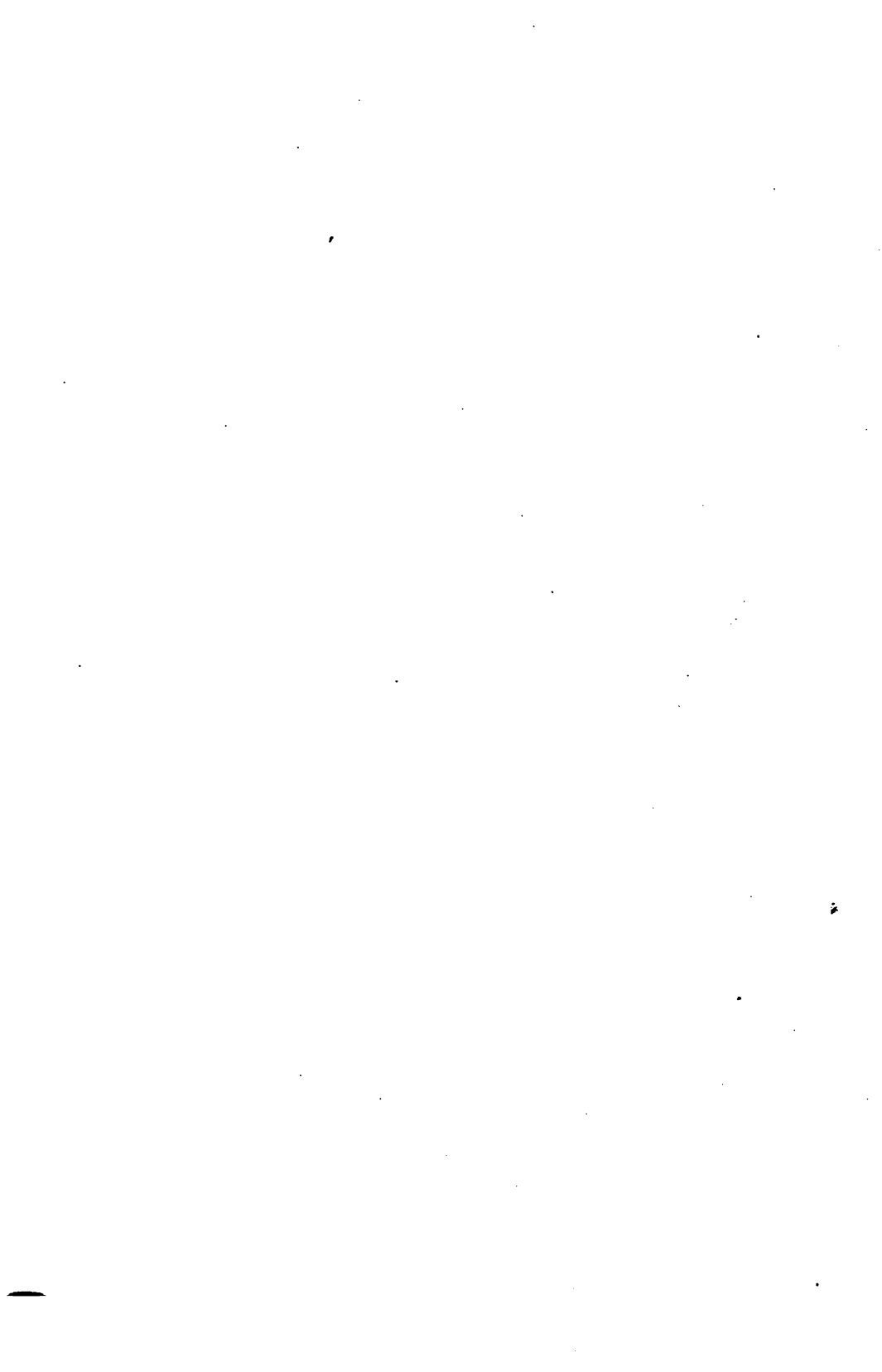
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Ms. A. J. Russell - 2.00

TO
THE FRIENDS
WHO AIDED MY HUSBAND IN HIS EFFORTS
TO UPLIFT MANKIND,
AND
FOLLOWED HIM WITH THEIR PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS,
THIS BOOK
Is Inscribed,
AS
A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION.
MRS. A. J. RUSSELL.



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- II. RUSSELL HOMESTEAD, BIRTHPLACE.
- III. OLD BLANDFORD CHURCH.
- IV. ANDERSON SEMINARY.
- V. DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.
- VI. SILVER SERVICE.
- VII. LAKE CITY COLLEGE.
- VIII. CHEMICAL LABORATORY.
- IX. HOME AND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND DUMB.
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PREFACE.

We are daily meeting our fellow-beings and they are being affected, for good or evil, by what we say and by what we do.

And an important item is, that our influence does not die with us ; but it goes on, for good or evil, according as we have lived, after we have passed away.

It is a glorious thing to live in the lives of others through the instrumentality of our benefactions and services. It is worth something to the world to perpetuate the memory of those who have nobly wrought for the welfare of others.

Our devotion for our own loved ones is gratified by suitable memorials of their good deeds. Major Russell lived to "honor God and bless his fellowmen." And in what better way could his work, his influence, be extended, now that his eloquent tongue is silent, than by a collection and publication of his writings? His best thoughts were the inspiration of the moment, and can never be reproduced ; still we have so many good thoughts, so much that will encourage, in what is left of his writings and lectures. Some one has so fitly said of him, "Whenever a strong word needed to be said, a fervent protest uttered, or a good cause to be helped, by an appeal which had the feeling and force of prayer, Major Russell's voice was never silent." So wide were the sympathies of his heart, so clear his insight into the virtues and feelings of the human breast, that his eloquence appealed to people in every condition of life, and rarely was his voice heard merely as a source of profit. Some one once asked him why he did not enter the lecture field. His reply was, "The clang of silver dulls the tongue of oratory."

He always took a keen interest in the events of the world that were going on around him, watching earnestly the progress of the political affairs of his State and country.

Such a life, earnest, pure, sympathetic, and laborious, is well worth the while to honor, and to point out as a noble example.

It is my wish and prayer that the publication of this token of love, the kind words and acts of our loved one, may speak through these pages to the tried and troubled, and urge on to noble deeds and stir men more effectually to high purposes and good actions. It was his daily prayer that he might honor God and bless his fellowmen.

Many papers and reports of organizations have been consulted to furnish authority for the sake of completeness. The *Times-Union* Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of Florida, Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. and Knights of Honor, require special mention, because of the liberal use made of them.

I have received much assistance in the shape of letters and other material from various friends of my husband, and I would return my sincere thanks, particularly to those who have furnished me with the pleasant reminiscences of him which adorn this book, and who in other ways have given me "aid and comfort." In presenting this book to the public, I feel an unfeigned diffidence. I know how much is justly required, and I feel that it could have been better done by other hands.

MRS. A. J. RUSSELL.

INTRODUCTION.

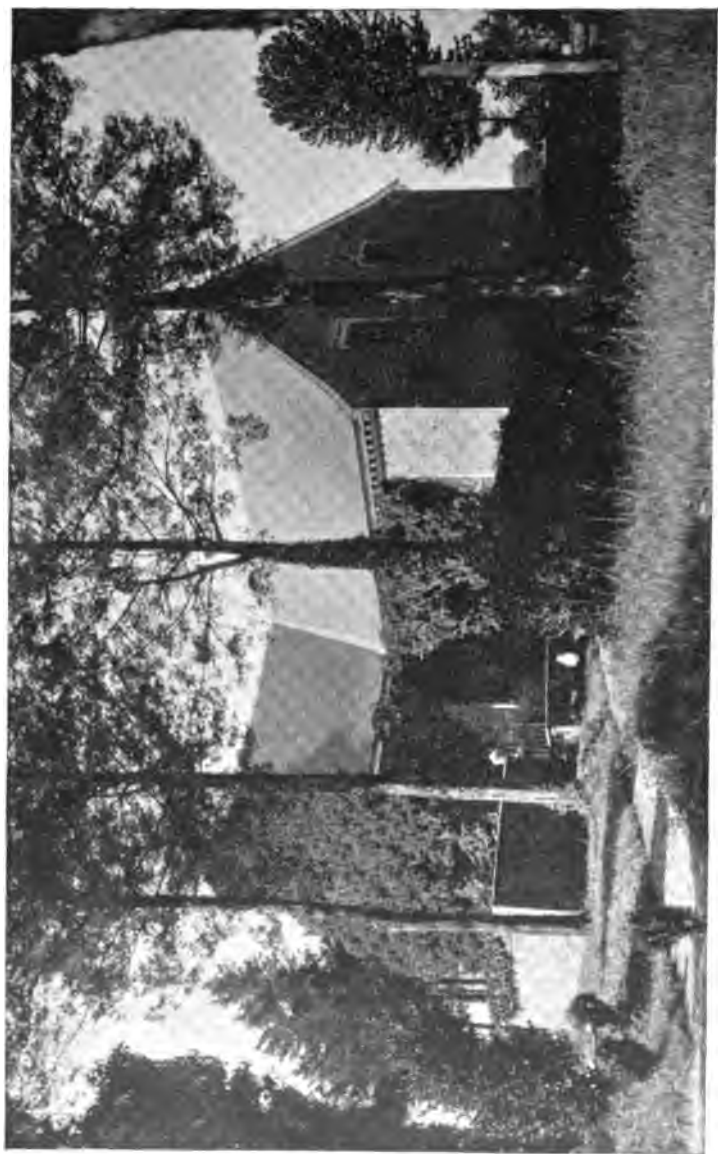
Major Albert J. Russell was born in Petersburg, Va. His grandfather was a citizen of St. Albans, Vt., one of three brothers, Elihue, Elisha, and Jonathan. The latter migrated to Virginia and married Miss Martha Powell, July 10, 1790. The Powell family were noted for their orators. * Jonathan Russell died in 1800 at the age of 33. Was buried in a vault near his home, which is located on Old Street, in Petersburg. The house is still standing, unchanged. The grandmother died in 1827, and was buried in the family vault. Their son, William Hathaway Russell, married Miss Sarah Ann Iseman, of Prince George Co., Va. Albert Jonathan was their first born. His father died when he was only 11 years of age. We have his father's dying message as related by himself: "My father called me to his bedside about an hour before he died and told me he would leave us in a little while, that I was a good boy and young as I was, he felt he could leave my mother in my charge. 'Do for her,' he said, 'as you have seen me do, my son.'"

In company with his sister, Mrs. J. Marshall, of Richmond, Va., I visited (June 8, 1896,) the beautiful "Poplar Lawn," Petersburg Park, where he, in company with sisters and brother, delighted to roam, and later, on public days, he enjoyed listening to speeches, especially on the Fourth of July, when the Declaration of Independence was yearly read, and the militia was out on parade.

Three years later his mother died. How affectionately he always spoke of her! He almost idolized her. After his

*The Russells trace back to Normandy, 1066; the name was originally Da Rozell, anglicized into Russell.

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OLD BLANDFORD CHURCH

mother's death, the bodies of father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother, were laid to rest in Old Blandford Cemetery, a beautiful burial place, in Petersburg, carefully cared for. Upon the grounds still stands old Blandford Church, where those Christian ancestors worshipped God and sang praises to Him. When a child he accompanied those dear parents. As the writer stepped inside this church and stood within its walls, it seemed like standing on sacred ground and in the immediate presence of our Father. This quaint old church is covered with clinging ivy. A slab of marble, placed high on the wall, marks the date of its erection, "Bristol Parish, erected 1735." On a large marble slab, inside, high upon the wall, are found these words, first written in crayon on the wall. The author is unknown.

Thou art crumbling to the dust, old pile,
 Thou art hastening to thy fall ;
 And round thee in thy loneliness,
 Clings the ivy of thy wall.
 The worshippers are scattered now,
 Who knelt before thy shrine,
 And silence reigns where anthems rose,
 In days of "Auld Lang Syne."
 And sadly sighs the wandering winds,
 Where oft in years gone by,
 Prayers rose from many hearts to Him,
 The Highest of the High.
 The tread of many a noiseless foot,
 That sought thy aisles, is o'er,
 And many a weary heart around
 Is still for evermore.
 How doth ambition's hope take wing !
 How droops the spirit now,
 We hear the distant city's din ;
 The dead are mute below.
 The sun that shone upon their paths,
 Now gilds their lonely graves.
 The zephyrs which once fanned their brows,
 The grass above them waves.
 Oh ! could we call them back,
 Who've gathered here in vain,
 Who've careless roved where we do now,
 Who'll never meet again.
 How could our very hearts be stirred
 To meet the earnest gaze,
 Of the lovely and the beautiful,
 The lights of other days.

Major Russell was graduated at Anderson Seminary, Peters-

burg, under Prof. Kieley. He was a great favorite with his instructors, always prepared for recitation. Hon. A. M. Kieley, U. S. Consul to Egypt, and at one time classmate, writes: "I recall Albert as exhibiting in school, as throughout his life, that earnest fidelity to the work in hand, which was always a marked characteristic of his career." Later he was apprenticed by his guardian to Mr. Ambler, of Richmond, to learn the business of architecture and building. After serving his term, he went to Philadelphia, was employed by Sloan, and afterwards Rubican. His only brother, Mr. William P. Russell, was with him. In this city they had a cousin, M. Russell Thayer, afterwards Judge Thayer, who proved an assistant to them.* It was in this city that Albert J. Russell delivered his first oration (true he belonged to a debating club and was considered a ready debator, still he first appears as an orator in Philadelphia). It was on the occasion of a strike. A meeting was called, Independence Hall was selected, and he addressed a vast crowd. Next morning the workmen were found at their posts ready for duty.

In 1852 he came to Charleston, S. C., finding the Northern winters too rigorous. In Charleston, with his brother, he pursued his business for eight years. While there, he became prominently identified with Odd Fellowship and Masonry, and he joined the orders soon after he became of age, as will be seen in another part of this work. In 1859 he went to Lake City, Fla., taking letters of introduction to Mr. Charles E. Hale; he remained but a short time before coming to Jacksonville, where he engaged in his profession.

At the breaking out of the war, in 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate cause, in the late J. J. Daniel's Company, and was elected Second Lieutenant in the famous Second Florida Infantry, Volunteers. The flag presented to the company was

*Hon. M. Russell Thayer delivered an oration before the students and faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 22, 1897, introduced by the mayor as the distinguished jurist, the eloquent orator, and the excellent citizen.



ANDERSON SEMINARY.

10-11-68

received by him in fitting words. He frequently acted as the adjutant of the regiment. He was promoted to First Lieutenant, Company A.* For his gallantry under General Magruder around Yorktown, he was promoted to the rank of Major. He was in the battle of Pamunkey Farm. He was afterward transferred with his company to General Johnston's Division. He distinguished himself for bravery at the battle of Williamsburg May 5, 1862, was in the subsequent retreat to the Chickahominy, and was ordered to camp of instruction in Florida until the reorganization of Florida troops. At Columbus, Ga., he was engaged in government founderies and machine shops. He was called out during the siege of Atlanta, placed in command of troops, took up the line of march from Charleston up the railroad, and was engaged in obstructing the progress of Sherman's army. He was with General Joseph E. Johnston at the surrender, near Durham Station, not far from Raleigh, N. C. He stood under an apple tree when he was paroled. At the close of the war, he resumed his former business, in 1865.

In 1874, he was elected to the city council. He was chosen Chairman of the Board of Public Instruction of Duval County, in 1876. In 1877, he was elected County Superintendent, and continued in that office until 1884, when Governor Bloxham appointed him State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which position he filled under Governors Perry and Fleming until 1893. In 1893, he was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge F. and A. M. of Florida. In 1880, he was chosen Presidential elector. During his term of office as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he succeeded in advancing and perfecting the public school system. He revised the school law, adding many improvements to it, and incorporating all these in a bill, secured its passage; thus giving to Florida its first real public school system. His work in

*While his company was in Charleston, S. C., they were feasted by his brother, who was a prominent business man of that city.

connection with the Old Soldiers' Home and National Odd Fellows' Home will be found elsewhere in this book. He was remarkable for humor, which rendered his society extremely attractive.

Study and intellectual labor were his chief delight. The Bible was the Book that gave him most pleasure. The real secret of his success in life was his trust in God, never failing to honor him. (1 Samuel, ii, 30 l. c.) Many of his subjects for public speaking were taken from the Bible. He often said he could not remember the time when he learned to read it. His voice was frequently heard upon the stump in the interest of the Democratic Party, as well as in temperance and educational circles. In every instance and on all occasions he tried to honor God and bless his fellowmen.

Such was his eloquence that he became known as the "silver-tongued" orator of the State. He seemed to do as well without as with preparation. His faculties were trained to do his bidding; he spoke without notes; he was, however, in the habit of carefully studying the subjects as he read, then, the occasion arising, electrifying his audience. Valuable speech must come from valuable thought and careful mastery of the subject.

So remarkable were his powers of concentration, he could easily throw the whole weight of his mind on the subject in hand. He could leave his work, when being interrupted, and sometime afterwards continue without reading back, going on with the same certainty as if he had never been stopped, so flexible were his powers.

What he did, he did with all his might. A more generous man never lived. His charity did not stop with his purse; he gave away freely of his labor and thought. He had even a higher charity than this—the charity that can forgive injuries and overlook faults.

His religious faith was not a barren belief, but an ever living principle, animating every act and thought. He died in

the full hope of the immortality beyond the grave. He is gone, we shall see him no more on earth, but he lives in his works and in the memory of his virtues.

The last meeting Major Russell attended was the "weekly prayer-meeting." He had been unwell all day, and spent most of the day on the lounge. Just before tea time, he said: "I am going to try to go to prayer-meeting." When told that he did not feel able, his reply was: "The pastor is not in the city, a young man will take charge, and I like to encourage the young." That evening he offered a most eloquent but humble prayer. Speaking of it to him, he said: "I felt it, I felt that I was in the very presence of God."

CHAPTER I.

In compliance with the request of a number of the teachers who heard it, and who desire to see it in print, we publish the following eloquent address by Major Russell. It was delivered before the Duval County Teachers' Association, at its last meeting prior to the summer vacation.—*Times-Union*.

THE DUTY AND PRIVILEGE OF THE TEACHER; IMPORTANCE OF
THE VOCATION OF TEACHER; THE NEED OF PREPARATION
FOR THE WORK; ITS CONSOLATIONS AND REWARDS.

MAY 11, 1883.

Of all the professions or vocations in human society, in point of responsibility, of intense importance, that of the educator is second only to the faithful preacher of the Gospel, the Christian pastor, if, indeed, the teacher is second to him, for is not the Gospel of universal education and a universal uplifting of the human mind, and enlarging human capacities, a part of that very Gospel preached by the faithful ministry, and does not right teaching and wrong teaching reach out in some respects, at least, co-extensive with the work of the minister upon the nature, character and destiny of the subject of such preaching and teaching? That this is so, I am of the opinion that no intelligent, thoughtful person would doubt. Then, from this standpoint, is it not of infinite importance that those who have selected the profession of teaching as their life-work should diligently inquire as to their specific duty, responsibility and privileges, and be earnest in their discharge and enjoyment of them?

In regard to the duty of the teacher, first, I would invite your attention and earnest thoughts for a moment. In example, he should reach as near a perfect degree as possible; to control his own emotions, a regularity of habit, especially in

promptitude and evenness of temper, as he or she teaches by precept the unfolding of pure and noble manhood or womanhood. Their own lives should be a living exemplification of the theories that they teach; thus, by precept and example, impressing the mind of the pupil with the certainty of the truth they seek to inculcate. Hundreds and thousands of the minds of the best men and women of to-day and of other days are and were, to a great extent, intellectually and morally second editions of the minds and characters of their preceptors.

In the second place, I would remark, a teacher should be completely up in the work before the pupils under his charge. It is remarkable how quickly the mind of the child will detect that awkwardness, which always attends the tutor who has suddenly sprung upon him some question in regard to a subject, in hand, in which he is not thoroughly prepared, and it is not at all strange that the teacher thus embarrassed should lose the confidence and frequently the respect of his pupils, conditions so absolutely necessary to successful teaching. To avoid such a circumstance, it is imperatively necessary that the teacher avail himself of every opportunity for study and improvement, to be diligent in the pursuit of advanced knowledge. He should not be satisfied simply with a full knowledge of the study in hand, but should be prepared and ready to impart that knowledge in the clearest and most attractive manner, and to set forth and illustrate the principles involved.

Then, how is this preparation, this power to impart and illustrate, to be obtained? asks an earnest teacher, perhaps of a rural school, situated in the midst of a patronage not qualified to criticise the work, or to advise or suggest.

In my isolation, how am I to discover my imperfections? How am I to direct or prove my advancement? Ah! here come those silent, yet powerful aids and delightful assistants, the books and periodicals.

A few dollars spared, from the scanty pay received, to pro-

cure the thoughts of those who have been impelled into the front ranks of the great work of education, by force of circumstances, will open up a field before the inquiring mind of the diligent, earnest, studious teacher, rich in lore, experience and grand success; and when idea after idea shall have been culled and applied, and the results seen, how joyous the contemplation of the teacher who honestly inquired: "How shall I improve and advance?"

Can it be possible that among the intelligent men and women who constitute the corps of teachers of Duval County, there is one who feels that there is no need of such anxiety, care, and diligence as I have described? Should there be, let him or her look around in the busy world, beginning in their home, city and county, looking at those engaged in every vocation.

See how the true minister of the Gospel toils and studies and works and trudges along in the highways and hedges, that he might drape gems of the old, old truth in new, fresh and attractive garniture, hoping that he may win into the affections of one heart and win one soul from sin and error.

See the earnest lawyer, how he goes down into the very depths of the commentaries and works of the law, and cons over the reports of every State's judiciary, reads every decision, decree and ruling, involving important principles in law and practice.

See the true physician, though practicing his profession for years, yet eagerly seizing upon every magazine and work as they are rolled from the printing-press, and in the few moments snatched from the ever-recurring demands of ailing and suffering humanity, gathers new thoughts and garners new discoveries in the vast, exhaustless field of the *Materia Medica*, that he may the more victoriously grapple with the grim monster, Death, and alleviate human suffering.

See the eager man of business, how he rises early and sits over his desk late, and almost devours the commercial and

market reports, that he may be alive to the opportunities to amass fortune.

See the thrifty, advancing husbandman of to-day, how he throws off the old ways of the fathers, and from his books learns how to get from one acre of zealous old Mother Earth's bosom more in products and profits than his predecessors gained from ten acres.

All these are every day, every hour, seen striding forward, foremost, in the race for a grand success, by an earnest, diligent use of the means and opportunities placed at their disposal, and can it be that one whose calling is to develop and form, and give direction to the immortal mind, and build character that shall exist for weal or woe throughout eternity, shall be less zealous, less earnest, less persistent, less industrious, less honest than these? Impossible! If so, it does not require the illumination of the spirit of prophecy for me to write now *signa failure* in their future.

I come now to consider for a moment that far more pleasing side of the true teacher's experience, the privileges and enjoyments of his profession. There is no work in which the man or woman may engage, which, to my mind, affords more genuine, exquisite pleasure, than that of the teacher as he beholds the unfolding of a new mind, so to speak, under his leadership and development. To discover the first flashes of an awakened intelligence; the first flashes of understanding, is an exquisite reward indeed. To note the progress of such a mind and realize that one's self is the source whence the moving influences are derived, is indeed a cause for real self-congratulation. True, there are attendant all along with all this truly pleasurable experience, shafts of pain and disappointment, when the developments exhibit evil traits of character, inborn to the pupil, marring all that is pure as soon as imparted, or taught, and rendering the mind almost incapable of receiving true knowledge. Yet the joy is the keener, when, after line upon line, precept upon precept, and correction upon correction,

the evil spirit is seen to give way and the whole character yield to the constraining and restraining control of the patient teacher who has so long combated the existing evil.

It is a pardonable pride he feels, who designs and constructs a gallant ship, whose keel shall plow the raging waters of the ocean, and bear from land to land the world's commerce and the earth's teeming population, or who plans and constructs the palatial dwelling adorned with the richest chaplets found in the beautiful fields of architecture, or rears the massive pile of thriving business blocks, or humming mill, or factory.

These are noble works, full of blessing to mankind. But, how shall I, with the feeble pen, describe those deeper, broader sensations of the soul, experienced by one whose life-work, perhaps, is near its close, as he stands hard by the busy thronged life's path, and now and then espies one who is a man or woman, is, in his or her life, honoring God and blessing mankind, and who was a pupil of his, trained under his hand and heart, and who now by reflex influence, is heaping honors upon his old tutor!

Ah! here is a work that is not only to build up a vast commerce, or to shield and protect man from warring elements, or like the sculptor, "almost make the marble speak," or like the painter, "almost make the brook murmur down the painted landscape," but a work which fits and qualifies the soul and mind to grasp and enjoy the highest and grandest privileges in this life, and for a larger and more expanded enjoyment of those endless pleasures purchased for them by an infinite atonement. To those who are engaged in so grand, so responsible a work, I would say with the poet Bonar:

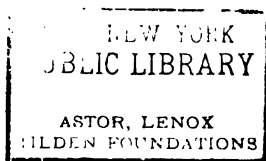
Thou must be true thyself,
If thou the truth wouldst teach;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul wouldst reach.
It needs the overflowing heart
To give the lips full speech.
Think truly, and thy thoughts,
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a faithful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

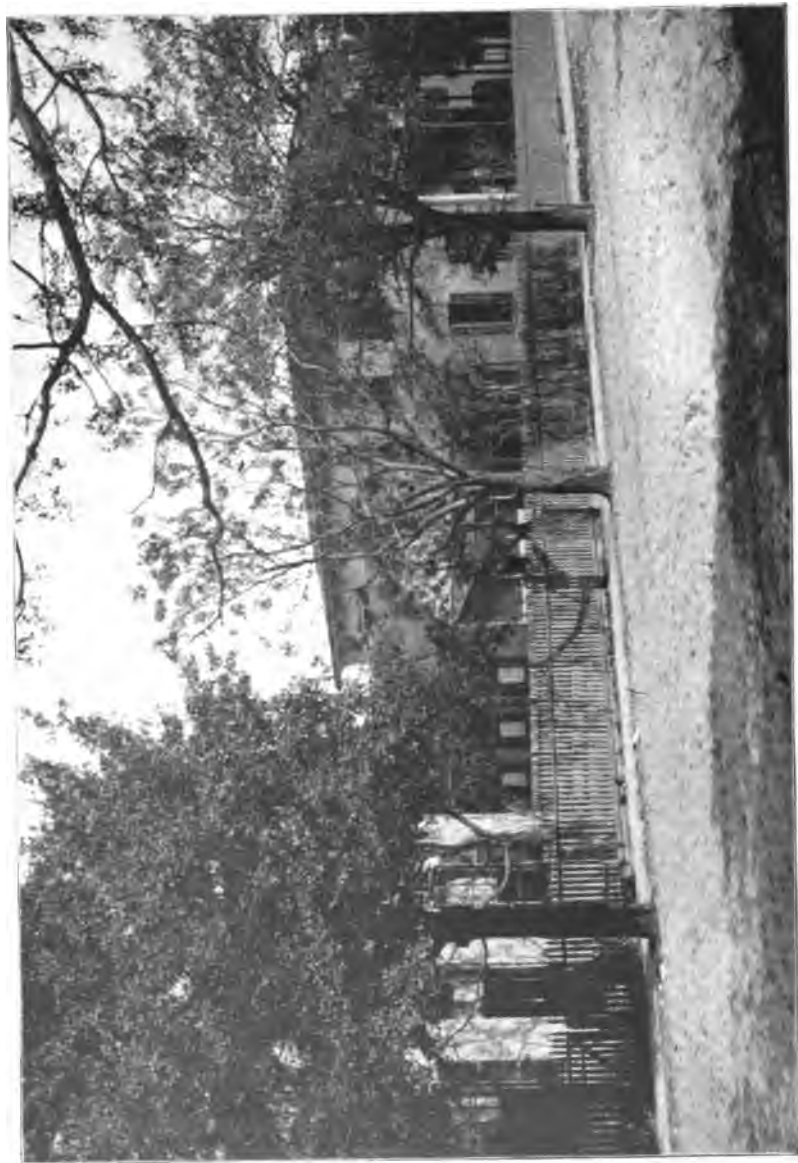
In view of all this my dear friends, how intense should you who are engaged in this great work of popular education be ; not only in the discharge of routine duties, but in your preparation and qualification for the work before you. While I believe no teacher in the county can be charged with wilful neglect, or want of appreciation of the importance of their work, yet I fear there is a failure on the part of some to put this appreciation, these conceptions of duties and responsibilities into active practice. I fear some of the young teachers are not as earnestly engaged in the pursuit of their studies, as diligent in their investigations in the great fields of teaching, as the very nature of their employment demands. And in this last meeting of the Teachers' Association for the school year, I would affectionately but most earnestly urge upon them, as upon all our teachers, the imperative necessity to press forward and outward into the study and investigation of their work, that they may succeed.

A thought or two in reference to your Association here, and I have done. It is a fact; I regret to say it, the Teachers' Association has not been attended, and its benefits used, as should have been the case. This loss, as it is, this neglect is charged only against those who staid away. There is no loss for those who have been found at their post of duty, and in the line of work, but rather gain. I am exceedingly happy to say that I do know much good has been done and much advancement made, and my sincere thanks and profound regard is here expressed to those who have been constant and so faithful in this work : especially those whose advantages and former opportunities render them less needful of such benefits. And I do most earnestly invite and urge all teachers of the county to attend punctually and promptly these meetings next year, especially the young teachers, whose work has just begun, and entreat them to push forward and upward, until under the blessing of God you shall become giants among the educators of the land. And now permit me to wish you a happy and

recuperative vacation and a joyous return to your meetings, and to invoke upon you our Heavenly Father's choicest blessing.

The work of the true teacher in its results will never stop until it banks up against the throne of God, there to be garnered for evermore.





DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

TRIBUTE.

The young men and young women of Jacksonville—some of them prominent in social, professional or business life, some of them treading humbler paths, but all with honor and credit to their *alma mater*—who for nearly twenty years have been graduating yearly from Duval High School, owe the possibilities of their higher public school education to two men, Major Albert J. Russell and Colonel Louis I. Fleming. These public-spirited citizens of Jacksonville have passed to their rewards, but their good works remain as benefactions, ever spreading their noble influences over wider fields. Beyond a doubt, it can be positively asserted that the inception and inauguration of Duval County's highest public school were due to these two fellow-laborers in the cause of public education. Colonel Fleming was Chairman of the Board of Education for the county, while Major Russell was the loving and beloved superintendent; both devoting anxious hours to the problem of giving better educational facilities to the youth of the county than the grammar school afforded. In 1877, their ardent hopes began to assume a tangible shape, when the modest brick structure, on the corner of Church and Liberty Streets, was occupied by enthusiastic instructors and pupils, and Duval High School became a fact instead of merely an aspiration. Strange as it may seem, there was opposition in Jacksonville to the establishment of this school, on the narrow ground that the public money should be used alone for the barest of elementary instruction. Be it said to the honor of these two men, they rose superior to this narrowness, and gave to their city the opportunity of educating its youth at home, thus enabling the young people to remain under parental influences and control, at a most critical period in their lives. I have heard Major Russell say more than once, that they built the school house and had the school in operation almost before its opponents knew what was doing, thus having the opposition to beat upon an accomplished fact rather than

against a project.

Three years later my connection with Duval High School began, and continued until shortly after Major Russell's elevation to the State Superintendency. From December, 1880, until January, 1884, my duties as Principal of the school brought me into almost daily contact with Major Russell. Both being Virginians, he from Petersburg, while Richmond was my birthplace, a bond of sympathy was established between us that continued until he passed to the better land. His untiring efforts to induce the parents to send their children to school, bore yearly fruit, in the increased attendance and the new schools necessary to be established. His visits to the schools were bright days in the lives of the children whom he addressed or heard recite; truly the school boys and school girls of Jacksonville loved their superintendent. Crowning all, however, in my opinion, was Major Russell's ability to inspire enthusiasm among the teachers—those doing the actual work of the class-room—inspiring the ambitious, cheering up the discouraged, and causing the whole to move forward in solid phalanx. No one that has not been in the school-room can appreciate the full force and effect of having at the head of a system a man possessing that gift of genius. A cold, unsympathetic superintendent can chill the warmest efforts of enthusiastic teachers and pupils alike; what must be the effect when such a man meets an earnest but discouraged teacher or pupil? From first to last there was nothing of coldness about Major Russell. His quick perception and great heart always enabled him to speak the right words that were bound to put the earnest worker on the path of renewed effort. I speak from close observation and personal experience; fellow teachers of bygone days will bear witness to the truth of my words.

Duval High School being his creation to a large extent, he naturally took a deep interest in every movement looking toward its elevation and increased usefulness. Suggestions for stricter discipline met his approval, his only caution to me

being to temper justice with mercy. When pressure was brought upon me as principal to graduate two students who did not come up to the required grade, and I refused to issue certificates on the ground of impairing the standard of the school, Major Russell stood loyally on the side of scholarship, risking ill-will and unpopularity. At commencement exercises, his addresses to the youthful graduates were as though a father were parting with the children of his heart, and his affectionate words were long remembered by those who received at his hands their certificates of proficiency.

In 1884, Major Russell became State Superintendent of Public Instruction, receiving his appointment at the hands of Governor Bloxham. His parting from the immediate control of the educational affairs of Duval County made a break in the chain of events that for a time boded no good for our schools, but his watchful eye and kindly heart came to the rescue, and his beloved county moved on in this work. During his incumbency at Tallahassee, I served for a while on the County School Board, and for a little while as County Superintendent. In these positions, I continued to observe Major Russell's deep interest in this county, though his time and attention were, necessarily, largely taken up with the duties of his wider sphere of action. Till the day when his service of nine years at the head of our growing state educational system came to a close, his eloquent voice and facile pen wrought incessantly for the good of the youth of the State. In the wilds of piney woods and wire grass, there were boys and girls to be taught. Thither his words would reach, urging that schools be established, and not infrequently his personal presence would follow his urgent words. Is it any wonder that Florida's schools increased with such unexampled rapidity during his beneficent superintendency? Is it remarkable that throughout the forty-five counties of his beloved State, loving friends bear his memory in kindly feelings, and mourn that he is no more among them? He was my friend; I loved him.

W. B. CLARKSON.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, January 8, 1897.

JULY 16, 1876.

*Major A. J. Russell was appointed a member of the Board of Public Instruction for this county, in place of Judge Baker, resigned.

CLASS OF '83, DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

JUNE 6, 1883.

At the graduating exercises Major Russell bade farewell to the class in the most touching language. His words to the young men graduates were full of love and tenderness and drew tears to many eyes.

NOVEMBER 17, 1883.

"I think," said the Major, speaking of the school, "that the discipline of the school is better each succeeding term. I know that it is better this term than ever before, and this is due, first, to the character of the teachers; secondly, to that order which, not as in other States they would have found already existing, but which they are evolving and have evolved out of chaos; and thirdly, the better discipline is due to the growing favor of the parents. The respect which a parent feels for the school and its authority has a very sensible effect upon the labors of the teachers; a parent rightly minded will enjoin strictly upon the child the duty of respect and obedience to its teachers at school.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR RUSSELL.

THE TEACHERS OF DUVAL COUNTY MAKE HIM A RICH PRESENT.

JANUARY 21, 1884.

A very pleasant event was that of yesterday at the meeting of the Duval County Teachers' Association. It having been announced that Major Russell, in conformity to the civil service rules, had been promoted to a position to which his abilities and services entitled him, the teachers of the county took occasion to show him an expression of their admiration and esteem. Through Prof. Clarkson, as their spokesman, they presented Major Russell with an elegant silver service of eight pieces, upon one of which was inscribed a fitting legend.

Major Russell was deeply affected and responded very feelingly to the words of presentation.

*About five years ago the records and nearly all the papers in possession of the county superintendent were lost by fire, thus rendering it impossible to get a full report of Major Russell's work as County Superintendent of Duval.



SILVER SERVICE.

THE NEW YORK
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ASTOR LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATION

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., MARCH 8, 1884.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this board desires to express its high appreciation of the faithful and efficient manner in which Major A. J. Russell, the late Superintendent of Instruction for this county, has discharged the duties of that office, and extends him their wish that he may have equally great success in the higher office in the matter of public education in this State, to which he has been called.

L. I. FLEMING,
T. M. MCCORMICK,
J. D. MEAD, Committee.

Major Russell entered the cabinet February 20, 1884.

Major Russell has been Superintendent of Schools in Duval County seven years, and in that office has been zealous and faithful and won the success which zeal and fidelity deserve. Not only in Duval County in matters of education, but every little child, white or colored, in the county knows him and salutes him as he passes, with a deference born of affection and confidence.

CLASS OF '84, DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

JUNE 4, 1884

The diplomas were presented by Major A. J. Russell, who made a few personal remarks as he handed each graduate the precious but well-earned parchment. He retained a diploma for an absent member of the class, who, though he had not graduated to-night, had richly earned the diploma and had passed the rigid examination of Anapolis, and whose obedience and docility, close application, unflagging industry and well-proven ability justified Major Russell in predicting that the day would come when he would reflect honor, not only on Duval High School, and the State of Florida, but upon the United States of America. Of course it did not need the announcement of the name to tell the audience that the diploma belonged to William Baya, but the name was received with rounds of applause from both sexes and all ages present.

Major Russell addressed the audience briefly but eloquently on the public school system in general.

CLOSING THE CITY SCHOOLS.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT RUSSELL MAKES AN ELOQUENT ADDRESS—EXERCISES AT THE DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL—PRESENTING THE DIPLOMAS—GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXERCISES—THE STAR PUPILS, ETC.

JUNE 6, 1885.

The closing exercises of Duval High School came off yesterday in the high school building.

Heretofore these exercises have been held during the evening in some one of the public halls of the city, with one exception. On this occasion

the teachers and pupils thought it best to use their own rooms, which were crowded with friends. The opening exercises were conducted by Major A. J. Russell. At the request of the principal, Prof. W. C. Thayer, who, with the State Superintendent, Mr. W. B. Clarkson, the former principal of the school, and Mrs. M. C. Washington, assistant, occupied the dais.

In presenting the diplomas Superintendent Russell availed himself of the opportunity to speak in earnest words to the whole school of the fact, that in these days of intense real utility, every one, men, women and youth, in this country especially, stand or fall on their own merit. Sentiment had given away to a matter-of-fact business view of things. The indolent and indifferent would not be advanced or be sustained because of some sentimental sympathy which might attach to them. No young man or woman can hope nowadays for success, based upon a prestige of character achieved by an honored ancestry, but the world of men are asking, What have you done? What can you do? Personal merit and personal achievement and character are the tests applied, "and," said the speaker, "you young gentlemen and ladies will receive here in this school just what you earn by your own industry and honest, hard work. If you fail it will be your sad lot to know it is your own fault; if you succeed, you will have the great joy and satisfaction of knowing you have earned it. I exhort you, therefore, to earnest, honest work in all the future of your school years and days, as well as through all your future lives, that you may pass in that great day when all lives shall be reviewed before the unfailing Judge."

He spoke in most tender and encouraging words to the graduates in delivering the certificates of graduation.

DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

JUNE, 1887.

The class was addressed by Major A. J. Russell, in his usual warm and earnest manner. The presence of Major Russell was a most happy surprise to all, particularly to the graduates. He had been invited to attend and address them, but had pleaded pressure of business in Tallahassee. When the adjournment of the Legislature released him he flew to his old love, Duval County and her schools. The class of 1887 had taken it with a very bad grace, that they should graduate from the school which owes its existence to his efforts, without a parting word from their beloved State Superintendent, and when it was known that after all he was to be with them, their happy faces told the gratification of their hearts.

Major Russell addressed the audience, and then made a most affectionate and tender address to the graduates, presenting their diplomas at the close. He then presented the gold medals of the school, to be worn during the vacation.

Major Russell, at the conclusion, in a most fatherly and solemn way, spoke a few touching words to the class that was like a benediction following prayer.

DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

THE COURSE OF STUDY PROVIDED TO BE INCREASED TO FOUR YEARS.

JUNE, 1887.

Hon. A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has been busily engaged for several days with the members of the County School Board considering work to be done here in the Duval High School.

When this school was organized it was the desire of Major Russell, who was then County Superintendent of Public Instruction, to have the curriculum so arranged as to provide for a full four years' course, that being the time which, in his judgment, was required to give the pupils the thorough training which they should receive in an institution of this character. The majority of the board, however, at that time thought that a four years' course was too long, and that it would result in diminishing the attendance upon the school. Experience has shown, however, that a three years' course is at once harder on the pupil, and does not suffice to give him that time to grasp all the subjects provided for study, which is essential to a thorough mental training.

It has been determined, therefore, to establish at once a four years' course in the school, and thus increase its efficiency and its value as a part of the educational system of the county. It will result from this that there will be no graduating class from the Duval High School next year.

JUNE 8, 1892.

At Duval High School, immediately after the valedictory, Major Russell arose and paid an eloquent tribute to the class and gave a brief history of Duval High School.

CHAPTER II.

Mrs. A. J. Russell, Jacksonville,—

DEAR MADAM:—My relations became intimate with your distinguished husband, Hon. A. J. Russell, after I called him to the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in February, 1884.

My association with him soon led me to the conclusion that he possessed a combination of courage and gentleness such as immortalized Sir Philip Sydney—"Mild in manner, fair in favor, sweet in temper, fierce in fight." He was an enthusiast in the cause of public education; and his devotion to his high calling and superb eloquence, were most effective agencies in arousing public interest to the necessity of still further broadening our educational facilities.

He was never so happy as when encouraging the youth of the State to a laudable ambition, and a realization of the fact that "knowledge is power."

Possessing the modesty of woman, and as gentle as charity itself, he quickly won the attachment and love of the children in our public schools.

They always hailed his coming, and strewed his pathway with the flowers of affection.

Novalis, a German poet, wrote that a "strong character is but a completely fashioned will." Major Russell's great intellectual powers were always the servant of his will. In every civil position, he exhibited the same intelligence and courage that made him a conspicuous soldier on the field, and enabled him to leave his mental impress upon his great educational work.

For nine years he was at the head of Florida's educational

system and *truthful* history will accord him the most enviable success in his work.

His monument to-day is in the esteem, gratitude and love of the people of Florida.

Major Russell was a pure man. His thoughts and teachings ran in pure and elevating channels, and he would never—

"Crook the pregnant hinges of the knee
Where thrift may follow fawning."

I cherish our long association and friendship, and were I able, would give a tribute to his memory such as the great English bard gave to the immortal Irish orator—

"Ever glorious Grattan! the best of the good!
So simple in heart, so sublime in the rest!
With all which Demosthenes wanted endowed,
And his rival or victor, in all he possessed."

I have the honor, madam, to remain,

Yours respectfully,

W. D. BLOXHAM.

Mrs. A. J. Russell,—

On my first visit to Florida, I met Major A. J. Russell, who was then State Superintendent of Schools. I was struck at once with his earnestness and his devotion to the interests of the children. Subsequent visits to the State only deepened this first impression. I met him at gatherings of teachers and marveled at his eloquence in behalf of education. He was truly a great man and gave unreservedly of his best talents to the improvement of the schools.

AMOS M. KELLOGG,
Editor of the New York School Journal,

Major A. J. Russell's first official act as a Cabinet Officer was the laying of the corner-stone of the Agricultural College at Lake City, on Friday, February 22, 1884.

FROM HIS BIENNIAL REPORT FOR 1883 AND 1884.

I found that the Board of Trustees, of whom the law makes the Superintendent of Public Instruction Chairman, had located the college in Columbia County, at Lake City; that the people of Lake City had offered one hundred acres of land and fifteen thousand dollars for public purposes, and in view of this generous and public-spirited offer and the central position and acknowledged healthfulness of the locality, proved satisfactory reasons for the location. During the present year the building has been completed in all its parts, and the faculty elected and organized.

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE.

THE CEREMONIES AT LAKE CITY YESTERDAY—PAST GRAND MASTER MCLEAN OFFICIATES—ELOQUENT ORATION BY STATE SUPERINTENDENT RUSSELL--FULL ACCOUNT OF THE DAY'S PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

LAKE CITY, FLA., FEBRUARY 22, 1884.

At an early hour the streets of this pretty town began to assume a lively aspect, the occasion being the laying of the corner-stone of the State Agricultural College. At the hour for beginning the ceremonies most of the places of business were closed, and crowds had gathered in the vicinity of the beautiful spot chosen as the site of our future University. Under the command of Grand Marshal Mickler the procession was formed at the Court House in the following order:

Lake City Cornet Band.

The New Steam Fire Engine.

The Freemasons.

Vehicle with the Corner-stone.

Trustees of the State Agricultural College.

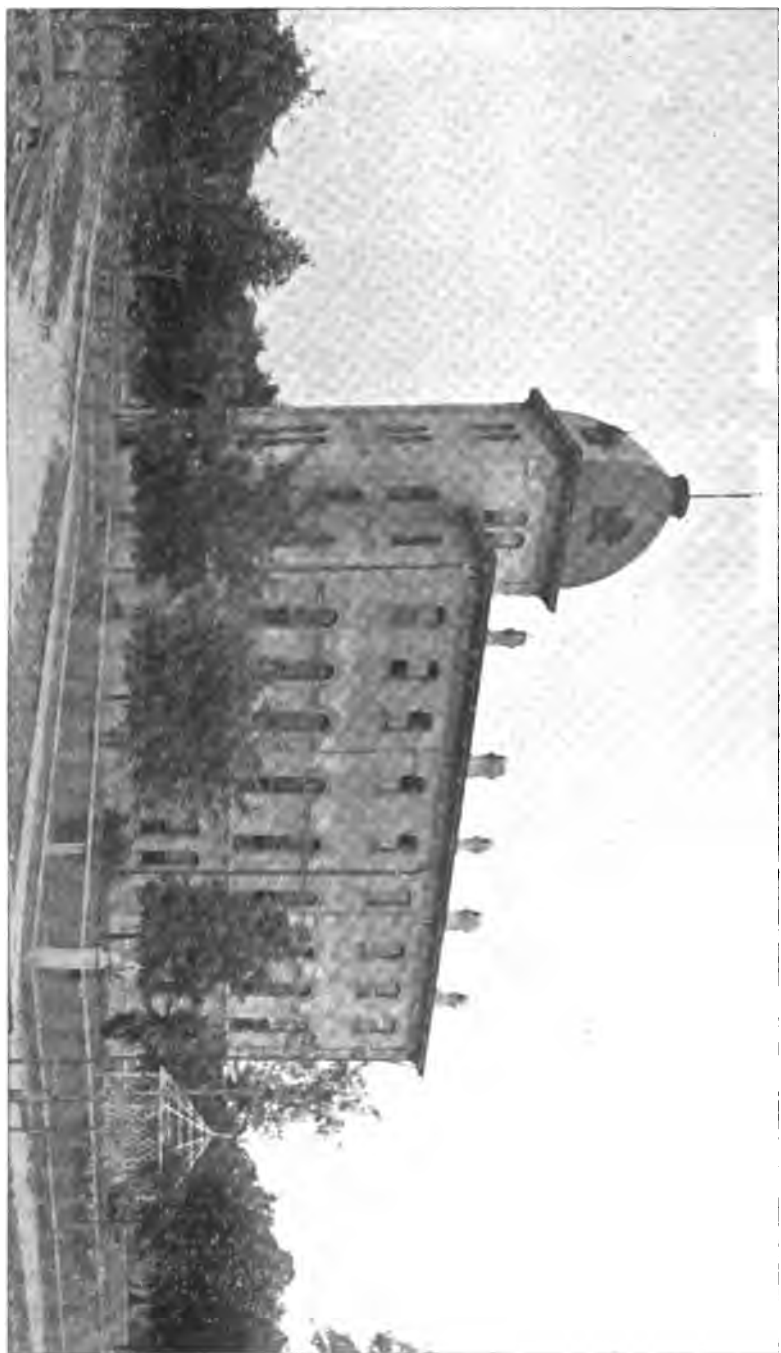
His Honor, Mayor Sheffield.

Board of Aldermen.

Citizens Generally.

The line of march was from the Court House southward through Main street to the site of the proposed building. The procession moved about 11 o'clock A. M., and on arriving at the proper point divided and formed a hollow square around the foundations of the college.

Then Major A. J. Russell, with the Board of Trustees, Hons. David S.



STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

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Walker, H. A. L'Engle and H. N. Felkel, took seats upon the platform on the brick foundation, back of an arch constructed of moss, in the centre of which hung a large letter "G" which was made of evergreens. Past Grand Master W. A. McLean, as Grand Master, formally called the Masons to order, and after prayer by Acting Grand Chaplain Huff, the Treasurer, J. E. Young, deposited a box in the corner-stone, which contained the following articles:

A copy of the Annual Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida; Returns of Lake City Lodge, No. 27, F. and A. M., for the year ending December 27th, A. L. 5583, A. D. 1883; a list of the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural College; roll of members of Welborn Lodge, No. 13, F. and A. M.; Officers of Cherry Hill Lodge, No. 12, F. and A. M.; list of the names of the Past Grand Masters present; names of the officers and members of the Agricultural College Building Association of Columbia County, with extracts of the minutes of the Association, giving the date of its organization and amount donated by each member; brief historical sketch of Lake City, giving a list of the municipal officers, etc.; roll of officers and members of Lake City Fire Company, No. 1; copies of the Times-Union, Savannah News, Floridian, Lake City Reporter, Columbia Star, and others, deposited by Mr. S. Boteler Thompson; coins, deposited by Messrs. J. E. Young, W. S. Sheffield, Mrs. Sheffield, Dr. Hutchinson, Mrs. Hutchinson, Captain Joe Baya, Mrs. Baya and John Jackson; B. H. Palmer and others deposited cards: Prof. F. Waltz deposited a State bank bill of Confederate issue.

After the ceremonies of squaring, leveling, plumbing, etc., were gone through with, Acting Grand Master McLean introduced Major A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and President of the Board of Trustees of the State Agricultural College, as the orator of the day. Major Russell advanced under the arch, and in the most impressive manner, addressed the assembly as follows:

M. W. G. M., Brethren, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

The ceremonies which you have witnessed here today are no empty ritualistic display, but are of great practical use and replete with a beautiful symbolism. As Free and Accepted Masons we design to impress by them the idea and practice of the substantial building of houses, of public edifices, and business houses. Such lessons are eminently needed, in our own country especially, so amazingly rapid has been the march of population, so extensively wide our national domain, so varied the circumstances surrounding localities, and so inviting all parts of our vast country, that a mighty rush and an im-

petuous haste, has been the rule, rather than painstaking and care, in regard to substantial building. Cities and towns have sprung up almost as the bursting bud opens into the full-blown flower upon the mountain side or in the beautiful meadow. Indeed, as in the case of the Golden State away off on the Pacific slope, whole States with governments and all the appliances necessary to life under our free government have in much less than half a century sprung into existence, complete and rounded as to form and appearance.

To this state of things may be attributed the absence of that substantiality so characteristic of the Old World and which gives to it such grandeur and connects the aged past with modern times so poetically. Some of my hearers to-day may differ with me as to this matter, and ask, where are all our great metropolitan cities, with their superb buildings and grand display? Let them go back for a moment upon the files of the newspapers and read the ever recurring record of falling and tumbling buildings and blocks which in the silent hours of the quiet night have suddenly been converted into unseemly masses of debris, through which anxious workers dig their way in search of the buried wounded and dead. Let them go to that amazingly fair city, the flower of the great Northwest so quickly grown, Chicago, and see how from the forked tongue of flame ascending from a lowly dairy farm, it, in all its beauty and grandeur, melts into thin air, and terrible heat, and from these examples agree with me that there is wanting a substantiality about our work in the erection of our buildings. We, by our ceremonies here to-day have demonstrated how careful should be those who propose to construct an edifice in the preparation and laying down of the foundation, in order that the whole superstructure, equally carefully erected, may safely repose through the ravages of time. Thus may a people connect their past with their future, and by it inculcate lessons of home love and national pride and patriotism. On one occasion, when that grand old warrior, Marshal Ney, had returned

to his *la Belle France* from the battlefields of a foreign war, all begrimed and scarred, a gallant countrywoman of his, who had been listening with bated breath and with an admiration almost amounting to worship of his recountal of his conflicts, asked him, saying: "Marshal, tell me, what is it that makes one so patriotic?" "What is patriotism?" said the grand old man, as he straightened himself as though to make room for the swelling soul which was within him, "Madame, it is the love of one's home, the old home in which the man and his father, and his father's father was born and reared; the grand old trees 'neath which he had played when a child, a youth, and under which he had listened to recountals of the family history; these, Madame, make country, and the love of home and country make country and patriotism." How few are the instances that exist comparatively in our great country from which such inspirations as those referred to by the grand old French soldier can be derived. Only a few days since the noble ladies who have so patriotically undertaken to preserve and perpetuate the home of our own beloved and universally revered Washington, were calling for aid, stating that several of the apartments were rapidly going to decay, and unless renewed the whole fabric would pass away.

But if the lesson taught in the ceremony leads us to practice substantiality in building, its beautiful symbolism will teach us still more important and beautiful lessons. For it teaches us that in building up our life work, our moral and mental characters, we should be sure and lay the foundations true and steadfast, while the superstructure should be as carefully planned and put together as year after year the developments are made. The foundation of these should be integrity, fixedness of purpose and rectitude of life. Rearing character based upon these is the highest duty and privilege of man from a human standpoint. Beyond this, Masonry points to its greatest light, the eternal Word of God for all direction and instruction, and she, in her own history and career, has clearly

demonstrated that the surest repose that man or communities of men can possibly have is in God himself. She has steadily taught her neophytes through the ages in all the vicissitudes of life, in all its joys, its sorrows, its prosperities, its adversities, to trust in Him and to call upon Him in all trials; and thus reposing, she has withstood the ravages of time, the devastations of war, the ruthless hand of a fierce bigotry and its consequences, persecution, and political hate and ostracism, and is to-day revered and respected everywhere.

I come to you to-day, my fellow-countrymen, with three lessons, first as citizens of a common country, State and community, and would seek to apply them; however humble you may think your sphere in life, or however grand you are, whether you will or not, you are engaged in laying some kind of a foundation for society, for country, for State, and for the community in which you live, each of you are either furnishing good and proper material or else you are supplying evil and pernicious ingredients which, when admixed even with that which is good will weaken and render unsafe the basis upon which the social and political fabric is erected and be productive of wrong, and error and all their innumerable train. Let every man, every woman, citizens of this fair and favored community, aspire to good citizenship, to high morals, strict integrity and refinement of life, and a rich success will attend you. Even the institution of learning, whose walls you commence here to-day, will be the brighter as an intellectual luminary and become a center from which not only an intellectually cultivated, but a highly moral and pure citizenship shall radiate our whole State and its reflex influence upon you and your city shall be all the most ardent could desire.

And now, to you, my fellow-countrymen of Columbia, I extend my congratulations upon your spirit of enterprise which has enabled you locate this institution of learning in your county, and upon its being one of the land marks of the advancement and progress you are making, as it is indeed of

the wonderful exhibitions of the recuperative powers, manifested all over our beloved South. Doubtless you will pardon me if I here indulge in my personal thought and delights, regarding the advancement and grand achievements of my own beloved South. I love to contemplate her in the presence of her sons and great statesmen as, for a period of thirty years, they fought the battle of constitutional government in our national legislative halls. I love to contemplate her when, convinced that the issue must be submitted to a severer and sharper arbitrament, she gathered her sons from far and near and all she had of wealth and power and laid them freely upon its altar. I love to contemplate her, though in sorrow, with her robes bedraggled in the dust of humiliation as she returned conquered from the contest, her arms folded athwart her breast, her head bowed, but anon lifted in sublime trust to the God of nations. But I love most to contemplate her as she throws her sorrows to the winds and bends all her energies to the achievement of the new South and enters the race with all her sister States for the grand and glorious success that now crowns our whole country, and I rejoice with her as the golden ducats cling fast to her palms. Our keen eyed brethren of the North, East and West, beholding the scene, are hieing themselves down from their homes into our midst to reap with us our glory, our power and our wealth, and here to-day, as always and everywhere, we bid them a most cordial and hearty welcome. This very institution of learning now in process of erection in your midst is but another sign of our conquest and success, and who would here to-day undertake to measure the results upon life and character that will be achieved within its walls. What system of calculus would you introduce with which to measure the ever onward march and conquest of minds unfolded and strengthened and fitted for life's great work by the pursuit of its future curriculum. Young men passing out from its walks intellectually and morally trained, radiating our whole State by their reflex influence, will shed

luster, honor and dignity upon your community and return such a reward as the most ardent might desire; and now may I not join the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Masonic craft and invite you, one and all, to join with me in invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon this institution, its future professors and students and upon your whole community, our beloved State and glorious city.

There were between eight hundred and one thousand persons present, who listened to Major Russell with marked attention. At the close of the address the Grand Chaplain offered the closing prayer, after which the Masons marched in procession to their hall, where resolutions were passed thanking Judge McLean, Mr. E. Wasgate and Major Russell for his eloquent oration, and requesting the State press, as far as possible, to publish it in full.

The assemblage of Masons on this occasion was the largest ever seen in Lake City.

The crowd of spectators also returned to the city after the ceremonies closed, where they witnessed an exhibition test of the fire engine, and about 2:30 p. m. they all dispersed, going quietly to their homes or places of business.

Nothing whatever occurred to mar the pleasures or detract in the least from the success of the occasion.

It was certainly a great day for Lake City, and will long be remembered with pleasure by all whose good fortune it was to be there.

OUR STATE CLASSICAL AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT LAKE CITY.

TALLAHASSEE, SEPT. 21, 1884.

Please give me space in your columns once more to call attention to the Florida State College, located in Columbia County, near Lake City. It is an institution of learning in which the young men of the State can obtain a thorough classical education and at the same time a thorough theoretical knowledge of agriculture and fruit-growing.

It affords an opportunity to those young men whose circumstances are circumscribed in the fact that as many as there are members of the Legislature from each county may receive beneficiary appointments from the Boards of Public Instructions in each of the counties, while others may enjoy the same opportunities for the nominal sum of \$40 per school year of nine months. There is just finished a fine and complete dormitory in close connection with the residences of the President and Professors of the College in which the students are to live immediately under the supervision of the faculty. The board will be fixed by contract, at the lowest possible

price, the charge being reduced as the number of students is increased, the object of the managers being to reduce the expense to the lowest possible figure, for desirable, healthful and comfortable living.

In addition to the above, the Board of Trustees have determined to establish an independent course of six months in which instructions will be given in the elements of botany, entomology and pomology, enabling the young farmer and fruit-grower to acquire a knowledge of the germinations and growth of plants and their proper food, and of the insects which are friends and foes to plant and fruit, and the classification of the latter, a thorough practical knowledge of budding, grafting and in arching, and the hybridizing of fruits. The fee for this course is fixed at \$20, with all the convenience of the college grounds. This is an opportunity for many of our young men who are not desirous, or who are not able, to take a classical course, but who may desire to pursue their vocations, than which there are none more noble or more valuable to our common humanity, in an intelligent and pleasurable manner, an opportunity which many of them ought to avail themselves of. Many proprietors of orange groves who do not reside in the State would gladly employ young men coming out of such a course, bearing a certificate from the instructor and president of the college, certifying their proficiency in this class of knowledge.

The Sub-Collegiate Class, organized last year, will be continued under the tuition of the regular faculty, preparing pupils for the Freshman Class in the college course.

The college is ready to extend to the people of the State all these opportunities at a mere comparatively nominal expense, with an excellent faculty, who bring with them not only all the facilities afforded by the highest institutions of learning in this country, but also those of Europe. Young and vigorous, for the most part, they are prepared to do vigorous and excellent work. It is to be hoped these opportunities will be improved by our young men, and that this year our State College will be filled with earnest students.

Respectfully yours,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

In the printed report for the years 1883 and 1884 will be found names of the Faculty; Foundation and Object; Farm and Buildings; Course of Study; Requirements for Admission.

So intensely interested was our State Superintendent that he again sent out another circular letter.

LAKE CITY COLLEGE.

GREAT ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY THIS NEW INSTITUTION OF LEARNING.

TALLAHASSEE, OCTOBER 20, 1884.

Permit me to call attention to the fact that the people of Florida have within their own borders to-day a thorough Classical Institution of learning, which, it is proposed, shall be made equal to any collegiate institution in the country, at which their sons may be educated at home, without the danger of exposure in the rigorous climates of severe winters.

The College is located in a central portion of the State, Columbia County, near the limits of the City of Lakes. The building, just completed, is ample in study rooms, sleeping apartments, and one of the best assembly halls in the country. The grounds are ample and beautiful, splendid spring water on the ground, furniture of the most modern and approved style.

The faculty is composed of a corps of gentlemen of the highest standing, both as to educational and moral qualifications. It is a fact that a pupil submitted to their training will, unless entirely deficient in mental power graduate from the college a man of excellent parts, both mentally and morally.

Now each county in the State is entitled to send as beneficiary students, as many as they have Representatives in the Legislature, and the tuition fees for others have been fixed at so low a rate that any young man of energy may earn enough, if at all desirous, to enable him to avail himself of this grand opportunity for a first-class education. Determined to make this college one of high standard, the educational grade for entrance has been fixed at an advanced point. In view of this, and realizing the fact that most of the counties have not had as yet the school facilities and advantages with which to prepare their children for this standard, it has been determined to open and conduct a sub-collegiate class for a short term of years, thus affording an excellent opportunity for preparation. And here I will say that those who enter this sub-collegiate class for preparation will be peculiarly fortunate in the construction of the foundation upon which they shall build their intellectual superstructure.

Altogether, the people of Florida are to be congratulated upon the completion, equipment and faculty of such an institution of learning within her domain, where their sons may enjoy superior educational advantages at home at a mere nominal expense, while it only remains for them to make use of it. The highest honor is to be the rule of the college in all its details. Students who cannot appreciate and practice this will, of course, fall out of the ranks, and those who can and will take their places. The various professors will each look well to this matter.

For further and more detailed information regarding the college persons will address President Ashley D. Hurt, Lake City, Florida.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

State Superintendent Public Instruction.

LETTER FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT RUSSELL IN REGARD
TO THIS EXCELLENT SCHOOL.

TALLAHASSEE, AUGUST 15, 1885.

To the Editor of the Times-Union:—

In your issue of the 13th I read an article headed "Agricultural College," and signed "C. F. K.," in which the writer reflects upon the Board of Trustees, insinuating (unwittingly, perhaps,) a neglect of duty on their part not founded on facts, and to correct which I beg a small space in your valuable journal.

In order to bring the readiness of the State Agricultural College to the attention of the people and induce them to make use of the splendid opportunity for a complete education of the young men of the State, President A. D. Hurt, at the instance of the Board, traveled over almost the entire counties during the months of August and September, 1884, personally presenting the college and the opportunities it afforded, and urging the people to avail themselves of them. He also prepared a very full pamphlet, descriptive in detail of every circumstance connected with the college, several thousand of which were distributed throughout this State, and many of the States of the Union; Hon. C. K. Foster, late Superintendent of Public Instruction, had published several thousand copies of the School Law in pamphlet form, embracing the entire act of the Legislature creating the college, many copies of which were sent to each Board of Public Instruction for each county, and to as many persons, who applied for them individually, as Superintendent of Public Instruction. This year I obtained 5,000 printed copies of the School Law as fully setting forth the act organizing the college, which have been sent, by fifties and hundreds, to all County Boards, in which all information is plainly given and hundreds of these have been sent to individuals applying for them.

I have also given a detailed account of the college, the faculty, the curriculum, the terms, charges, etc., etc., with quotations from the law, showing how beneficiaries are to obtain admission, in my biennial report to the Governor, copies of which have been sent to every board of instruction and county superintendent, and to every State superintendent in the United States, Canada and Central America (to the latter by request), and hundreds of them to individual citizens who have applied for them by letter.

Last, but by no means least; and most effective of all, I have through your kindness, Mr. Editor, been permitted to write of the college frequently in the columns of the *Times-Union*, by the almost universal circulation of which I was enabled to enter every nook and corner of the State with my detailed descriptions and exhortations, to take hold and use the privileges thus afforded, while President Hurt kept an advertisement standing in your advertising columns as well as in several other papers at home and abroad.

This, Mr. Editor, is a modicum of what the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural College have done through their officers and employes to advertise the people, and urge them to use it for their benefit.

Under this light, Mr. Editor, yourself and the people will perceive that "C. F. K." is a magnificent exhibit of a gentleman of great zeal, but without knowledge.

Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent Public Instruction and Ex-Officio President Board.

JUNE 4, 1885.

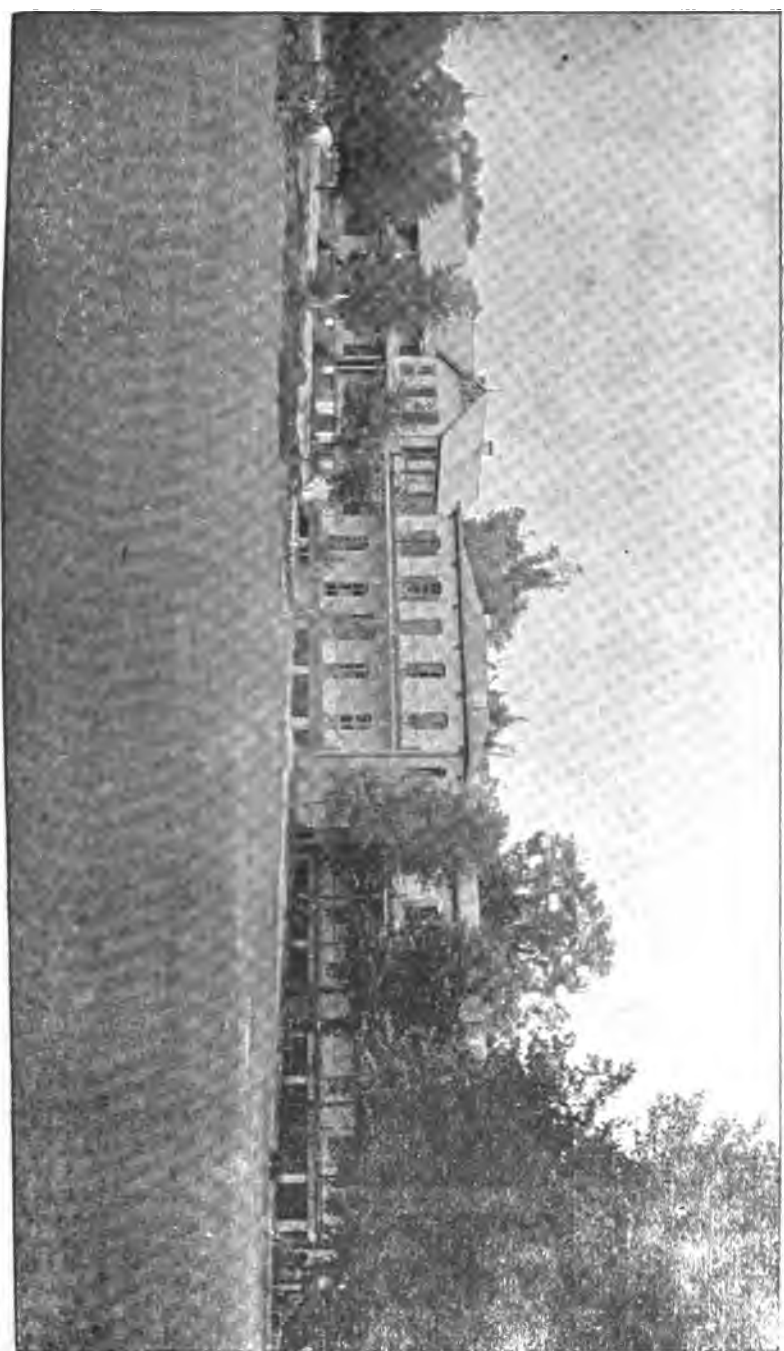
State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. A. J. Russell, returned last night from a meeting of the Board of Trustees. He said proposals are now being received for building the residence for the professor and dormitory for the students. The buildings will be of excellent character as well as design and finish. The buildings will be ready for use on the first day of October.—*Times-Union*.

*All over our country, in every State, the people and educators are moving in the direction of industrial schools, tool-craft schools, where our young men may be taught a knowledge of the useful and valuable trades, as well as how to use the tools employed by them. I most earnestly urge the establishment of such a school upon a large scale, for the youth of Florida, and suggest, as an excellent place and opportunity for its establishment, the site of the State College, to be connected with it in its operations.

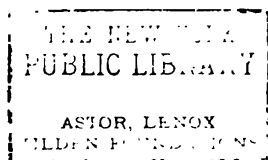
The opening of such an industrial school in this State, I know, would be hailed with delight and approbation in all its parts, by all its people. We, of the South, are almost entirely dependent upon men of other States for our architecture, building, machinery, and, indeed, almost everything in this line.

The old manner of years past, of apprenticeship, to acquire a knowledge of these trades, became repugnant to both parents and youth, until it is a rare thing to see a boy learning a trade as an apprentice, and therefore we are not producing the artisans and mechanics our rapid growth and progress demand. I would most earnestly urge the Legislature to instruct the State Board of Education to formulate some plan for initiatory steps in industrial training in the public schools

*(Taken from the annual report for '85 and '86.)



BARRACKS.



of the State. Since I have dared to suggest the connection of the technological school with our State College, I beg pardon for quoting from an admirable address delivered by A. G. Haygood, D. D., June, 1886. *

This institution is intended to become the cope-stone of our educational superstructure, affording its students an opportunity for a full classical education, or if chosen, a full, specific education in the theory of agriculture practically illustrated, on the farm, in the orchard and grove, together with agricultural chemistry practically applied. In addition to this, industrial training in a knowledge of the use of the mechanic forces, tools and implements used in wood, metal and stone, is imparted, while under the requirements of Congress, military tactics and science will be thoroughly taught, giving to each student the advantage of the system peculiar to a military organization so admirable and valuable in any vocation in life. The college is supplied with all necessary equipments, except a complete reference library and some scientific instruments. It has a fine mineral and geological museum, a fine collection of natural history, and is collecting a fine exhibit of the State geology, woods, birds and animals, has a well equipped laboratory, lecture hall, and spacious dormitory, where students may lodge and live, under the eye of the faculty. During the year the college grounds have been greatly beautified by the cultivation of grasses, shrubs and flowers, and a general arrangement of walks and avenues. A model barn has been erected, adapted to storing crops, housing cattle and stock, and caring for these so as to insure the best possible results. A cottage home for farm hands has been erected contiguous to the farm, the farm lands have been enclosed by a neat and substantial board and wire fence, new land cleared, and valuable farm work done in experimentation with various crops,

*(For same, see report of Superintendent.)

(Again in 1887 our State Superintendent calls the attention of the people to the State Agricultural and Industrial College, in annual report.)

while during the year 1888 a building for industrial instruction will be erected and a laboratory building constructed, and various other necessary improvements made. Meantime, the regular college work has been steadily carried forward, and the work done by the students is reported by the President, as excellent.

It is astonishing why parents do not use this excellent opportunity for the complete education of their sons instead of, at a great cost, sending them out of the State for that purpose, thus making the State tributary to the coffers of other States, when the opportunities enjoyed are no better, and, in many cases, by no means equal.

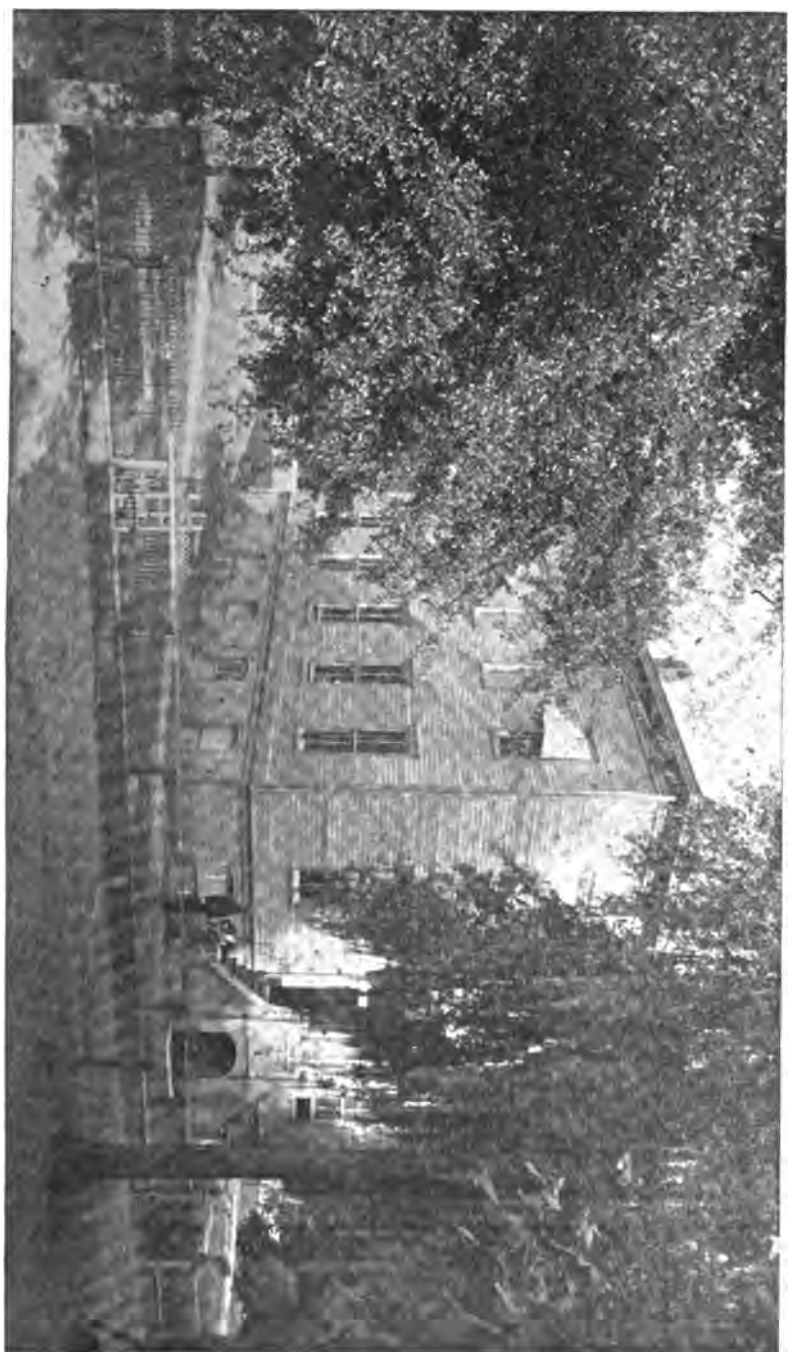
STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE—CLOSING EXERCISES 1887

Were opened by Major A. J. Russell, by a very impressive prayer. The presentation of medals was made by Major Russell in one of his most good-humored veins, pleasantly and appropriately.—From daily paper.

* PARTIAL REPORT OF 1888.

The State Agricultural College has had its impediments and hindrances, common to all institutions of higher education during five years of its young life; but I have reason to believe that the crises is passed, and that the College will move gradually on its way, blessing our young men. Prejudice and falsehood must give way before demonstrated truth and actual experience, and the people will see for themselves that all is being done which can be honorably done to give the State and her young men the very best possible opportunity for higher culture.

While this is not, nor can be, a religious or sectarian school, it is the constant care and desire of the President to lead the mind of the student toward God as the creator and benefactor of the human race, and that "the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments." To this end, unsectarian devotional exercises



CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

THE NEW YORK
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are held, as opening exercises, every day, so that while the mind is being developed the morals of the student are also looked after and guarded.

STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,

LAKE CITY, FLA., June 12, 1889.

Major A. J. Russell delivered the "Sheepskin" to each of the graduates. He also delivered the precious souvenirs of the Confederacy, a Confederate officer's "gold button" to each member of the class, the gift of Col. A. J. Holliday. His address that followed was superb. It was such an effort as flows only from the brains of deep thinkers and eloquent tongues.

LAKE CITY COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

June 13, 1890.

Hon. A. J. Russell in his immitable manner presented the Cadets with words of praise and advice appropriate to each.

Eleven Gold Medals presented by State Superintendant A. J. Russell.

Presentation of Certificates of Honor by Hon. H. W. Long,

AT THE STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

June 11, 1891.

Reports of the judges were received and read, and then Hon. Albert J. Russell was announced and presented the four Gold Medals offered by the Board of Trustees; and in his address, on this occasion, well nigh eclipsed even his own enviable reputation as the "silver-tongued orator of Florida."

He closed with a feeling, personal address to each of the prize winners, as the handsome Gold Medals were handed them.

BRIEF REPORT FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF 1892.

This College opened the year with a large attendance of the best young men in the State, strong in physique, and bright in mind, of excellent morals. The year promises the best results attained in its short history. Organized in the latter part of the year 1884, it has had the experience of all new and young institutions of its character. These are, I think, now happily passed, and the people of Florida may rest upon the knowledge that they have a College in their midst in which their sons may receive a full literary and practical education.*

(*He then refers to the President's letter found on page 9 in the Report.)

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

St. AUGUSTINE, April 16, 1884.

Major Russell is here and reports in favor of locating the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at this place, which is interpreted as meaning that we are sure of it. Major Russell says the proposed site is admirable and so located as to be easily accessible by rail and water.

[From a Daily Paper.]

BLIND AND DEAF-MUTE INSTITUTE.

Hon. A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, arrived in this city yesterday morning, and goes to St. Augustine tomorrow morning for the purpose of examining and accepting the buildings for the above named institute, erected by the contractor, Mr. Wm. A. Macduff, of this city. These buildings are now about complete, and are beautifully located, both in point of health and eligibility. They cost the sum of \$12,749.00 and consist of a group of buildings, the central one of which is the residence of the superintendent and instructors. On either side of this is a two-story building 35x60 feet, the lower stories of which are divided into study rooms, the second stories being divided into sleeping rooms for the pupils. The dining saloon is of one-story in the rear of the Superintendent's residence, and is 25x40 feet, embracing a culinary department, store-house, crockery, and linen rooms. An immediate organization of instructors will be effected and then unfortunate children, of whom there are about one hundred, will be admitted at once to instruction. This is one of the grand strides Florida has made in the educational work during the present administration.

DECEMBER 1884, MAJOR RUSSELL WRITES :

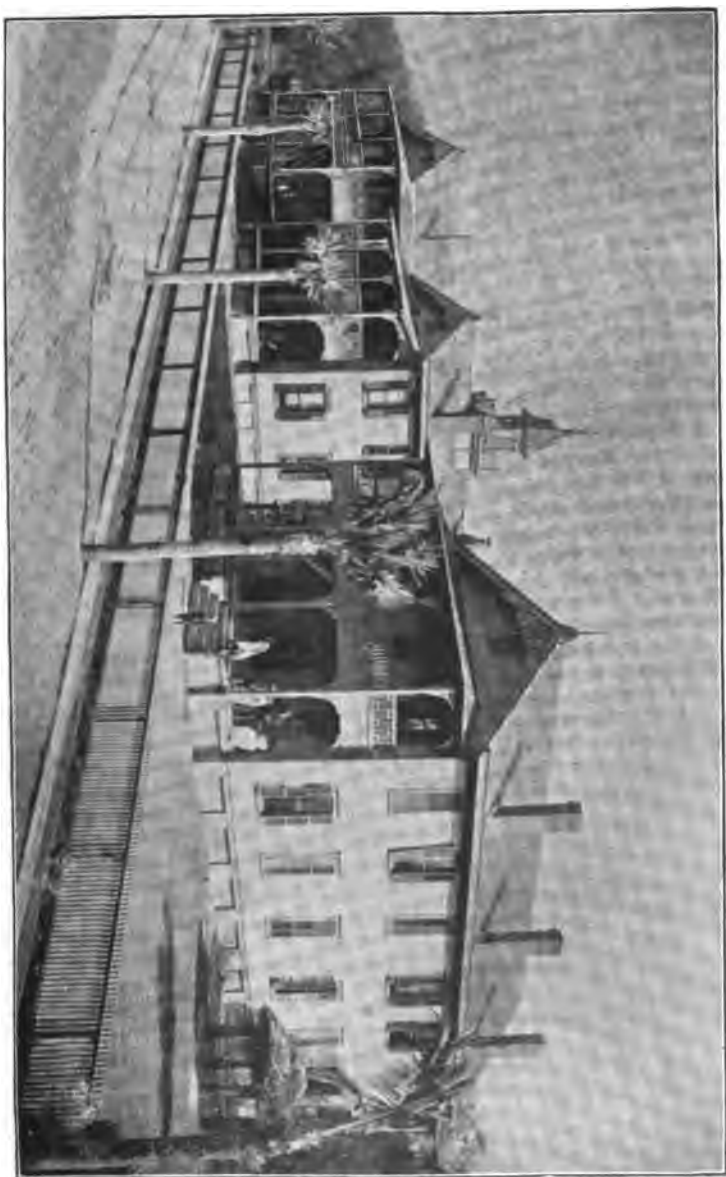
*I have the pleasure to report their completion in a substantial and satisfactory manner. With a view to proper organization, the Board have elected Prof. C. H. Hill, of the Deaf-Mute Institute, Maryland, as Principal.

It affords me great pleasure to report the universal approval on the part of the people of the State, everywhere, of the Act providing for the education of these unfortunates.

Of course, it is to be sustained and operated by annual appropriations made by the Legislature, and I earnestly re-

*A BRIEF REPORT OF DEAF, MUTE AND BLIND INSTITUTE, TAKEN FROM THE REPORT OF HON. A. J. RUSSELL.

In 1884, advertisements were made for proposals for erecting a group of three buildings for the accommodation of both races, separately, both as to living and study.



DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

commend a suitable appropriation as necessary for the equipment and support of the Institute.

This very important institution for the Blind and Deaf-Mutes of the State, has been regularly at work since its first opening December 1884, and is doing a work for these unfortunate ones, upon which doubtless God looks with approbation and surely all good men and women throughout the State will commend. It is simply wonderful how these afflicted children and young persons take instruction, and with what enthusiasm they pursue it.

THE DEAF-MUTE INSTITUTE.

PREREQUISITES NECESSARY TO ADMISSION OF PUPILS AT ST. AUGUSTINE.

SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, }
TALLAHASSEE, October 23, 1885. }

Will you, in the interest of the most unfortunate of our children, grant me a small space for an explanation of the requirements for admission into the Deaf-Mute Institute, located near St. Augustine? The original regulations, adopted in 1884, and sent to the various boards of commissioners of the counties, expressly desired them to be careful in ascertaining whether parents or guardians were able to support their children while at the institute before giving certificates to their inability. This has been faithfully complied with, and has doubtless, kept some children out who should have been entered.

In view of the above fact the present board of managers have considered it best to make a more liberal interpretation of the regulations. There are many families whose parents are enabled to keep their children clothed in some way, and to supply them with daily food, who scarcely ever see money enough each year to pay even the small cost of living and clothing at the institute, and would therefore be debarred the entrance of their children. The board of managers are desirous that these circumstances should be taken into consideration when the boards of county commissioners are passing upon any petitions for admission into the institute, so that the really worthy, though poor, may enjoy the full benefits of the school.

One word more; any child who is so affected in either of the faculties of seeing, hearing, or in speech, or in them all, so that it cannot be taught as other children in the public schools, is entitled to admission under the regulations as construed above. We have in full readiness delightful buildings, pleasant and healthful grounds, and competent and earnest teachers, and I beg to urge all parents of these afflicted children to send them at once that they may receive the benefits of this institution.

May I ask, Mr. Editor, that you will call the attention of the County Commissioners to this letter and ask all papers who feel an interest in suffering humanity to publish it?

Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

REPORT OF 1887.

This institute is now in a flourishing condition, having at last found its way to the hearts and appreciation of the parents and friends of the afflicted children of the State. For two or three years after this school was opened it seemed impossible to obtain the consent of the parents of these unfortunates to allow them to leave their homes and attend the school, but obtaining the attendance of a few, earnest and faithful work was done upon them, and those returning to their homes during the summer vacation, carried with them an argument far more potent than mere words from the lips of teacher or school officer, and gradually the fears have been removed from the hearts of the parents, prejudice broken down, the children have been sent, and these most unfortunate ones in attendance are improving and advancing in a wonderful manner, and we are forced to believe that God and eternity alone will ever measure the results of this grand work inaugurated and maintained by the State.

The afflicted of both races are admitted to the benefits of this school, and are taught and fare alike, but in entirely different buildings and at different hours. In many cases children who have never been known to utter an intelligent sound, are now pronouncing words; facial expression and lip gesture are taught, and parents whose children are enjoying these blessings are loud in their praise of the institute, and profound in their thanksgiving, as shown by their letters. (From report of 1890.) Every means in the power of the faculty will be used to fit these unfortunate ones for the conflict of life. Make them useful citizens and not mischievous drones in the human hive, and therefore probable criminals, if neglected.

Instrumental music is taught. Basket-making is taught the blind, and other useful work, while gardening, printing and lathe-work in wood are taught the seeing boys, and general housewifery the seeing girls.

This noble school is one of the greatest blessings result-

ing from the liberal school system of education Florida is affording her youth. A neat little paper is now printed and regularly issued by the pupils of the institute under the direction of their foreman, who is also a deaf-mute.

REPORT OF 1892.

I am rejoiced to be able to be able to report great prosperity in this noble work of the State in behalf of her most afflicted children, increase in attendance and substantial work being done. It is simply astonishing to go into this school and see what can be and is being done, in unlocking these obscured minds and hearts to the realm of knowledge of the work of nature around them, and of the mercy of the Creator in all He has done to make this earth so beautiful a home.

In arranging for the census this year, I took special pains to impress upon the County Superintendents the importance of obtaining the name of every blind and deaf-mute youth in their respective counties, the names of their parents and their respective postoffices; and in this way the Principal, Prof. Caldwell, has been enabled to reach many whose homes he did not know hitherto, and many have been brought in and are enjoying this great benefaction.

*Extract from a letter by Prof. Felkel, President of the Institute, written June 15, 1896:

"The fact is, the Major was such a ready, fluent man, that it always seemed to me unnecessary that he should put on paper anything that he might have to say. I have heard Major Russell make scores of speeches, but it never occurred to him to put them in writing; at least this was the impression made upon me.

"I wish it were so that I could assist you, for I can assure you no one had a higher admiration of the Major than I, and no one would more willingly assist in any work that would perpetuate his memory and influence."

*Prof. Felkel passed away February, 1897. Vacancy filled by Prof. F. Pasco.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY.

THEY GO HAND IN HAND FOR THE GOOD OF FLORIDA.

Eloquent Address by State Superintendent Russell at Metropolitan Hall—
 The Children Must All be Educated be
 They White or Black.

The audience, which gathered at Metropolitan Hall to hear Major Russell's lecture on Education, was noticeable for the amount of intelligence represented and the marked and respectful attention paid the eloquent speaker throughout the entire discourse. At its close, Major Russell was heartily applauded and was personally congratulated by a great many persons for his grand effort.

The lecturer was also closely listened to by a large number of colored people, who seemed deeply interested in the subject, and who were manifestly affected by what the Major said.

The following is a tolerably full report of the address, but cold type cannot invest it with the fire and fervor of the speaker.—*Times-Union* August 1884.

MAJOR RUSSELL'S ADDRESS:

FELLOW CITIZENS—I come to-night to speak to you, in my feeble way, on a subject second in my esteem only to the Everlasting Gospel of Peace. I do not forget that there yet lingers in the minds of some the long-ago prejudices against popular education; and also that there is with them a seeming absence of that equity which men usually look for in all matters in which money is involved. I refer to the fact that the wealthy and affluent, and the tax-payers generally, are, by a system of public education, obliged to pay for the tuition of the children of the poor and non-tax-paying. My theme,

then, is public education. I propose to treat my subject first from the higher standpoint, as embraced in the peace, law and order of communities, the high and ennobling conditions of society, the highest and most imperative duty of one generation to that which is to follow it, and the pride which humanity should take in itself, especially as it relates to our own country.

Ours is a grand nation—the greatest today upon the earth, or that has ever existed—grandest in its achievements, in the rapidity of its growth and development and in the fact that it has gathered together every variety and contrariety of sentiment and social, religious and political ethics and united them in one common purpose—the seeking out the best possible form of self-government—whose posterity are now exhibiting a citizenship at the contemplation of which the heart of every patriot should swell with emotions of pardonable pride and a lofty gratitude, coupled with a spirit of perfect self-sacrifice to perpetuate it and still improve it. In this glorious country of ours every boy, and every girl born upon her soil may of inherent right aspire to the highest place in church or State known to mankind. No blue blood or nobility of ancestry or kingly lineage is necessary to preferment, but the most obscurely born, however impoverished or unhonored, may by his or her single and personal efforts ascend to the loftiest place in power, social position, or usefulness, and respectability. Whatever of sovereignty is known to us resides in the people and cannot be abdicated or dethroned and our form of government continue to exist. One man's vote, however ignorant, vicious, irreligious or careless, is an offset to any other vote, however intelligent, virtuous, moral, or patriotic, whether he understands the responsible duty he is discharging or whether our whole form of government be a dark blank to him. Standing upon this condition of things, I ask you, my fellow-citizens, if it is not one of the first duties of the State to see to it that her children are prepared to exercise these great and responsible duties of so grand and glorious a citizenship?

The history of governments shows us conclusively that where intelligence prevailed success and grand achievements were the rule, and where ignorance prevailed national disintegration, squalidness and vice were the legitimate consequences. How strange does it appear to us that the people of ancient Phœnicia and Egypt, the first twin-mothers of science and the mechanic arts, should to-day be swept from the earth so far as their mighty attainments are concerned. So that arts, in all probability familiar to them, are now written and spoken of as the lost arts; arts, which, if known to us, even in this day of wonderful progress, would astonish the scientific world. Contemplate, if you please, the mighty pyramids out in an ocean of sand, far remote from any stone deposit, and yet constructed out of massive blocks of stone, uplifted to lofty positions in mid-air, of such dimensions and ponderous weight as to make the adjustment to their proper places in these mighty structures impossible to any known mechanical force of our day, other than the slow process of the inclined-plane as developed in the screw and lever.

As we look upon these, we are tempted to believe they had acquired by some exquisite balance of weight and forces, the power to temporarily suspend the laws of gravity. Archeological researches tell us that, in unfolding the ancient mummies, faint representations of motive power for travel and transportation, appear in the paintings of signs and characters upon the linen cloths as they are unwrapped from the long-sleeping dead. And yet to-day the descendants of this great people are the most pity-inspiring objects among the nationalities of the world, exhibiting an effeminacy disgusting to a real manhood, needing a guardian, held up as a government by a foreign power, while their ancestry were a gallant and warlike people, making conquest and inspiring terror. These present people are crude even in the essential art of agriculture, the simplest of implements are called into requisition to relieve an overstrained muscle, and the means used to produce clothing and those comforts

which are so necessary to make up a home, are of the crudest kind ; poverty, squalidness, vice, filth and crime prevail, and the whole thing is a parody on humanity. Now, why all this change, mighty and dread ?

The church will tell you, and rightly too, that it was because they forgot God and his service, but we think there is another potent reason. These people, surfeited, perhaps, with their grand achievements, were contented not to be pains-taking in transmitting their mighty knowledge to succeeding generations. Writers of distinction tell us that education was at last confined to specific classes—the priest, the warrior and the government officer—a narrow channel through which a great government's prosperity was to flow. The teeming masses were neglected, and the scheming and ambitious used them. While *the nation was being educated* in its priests, warriors and government officers, the individual citizenship was left in comparative ignorance, and the country paled, sickened and died.

So with grand old Rome—proud mistress of the world—with her patrician and her plebeian system ; or rather, her patrician system and plebeian neglect. Her masses neglected in an educational point of view, were the easy prey and accommodating vehicles into power for aspiring tyrants and selfish rulers, and the great empire became an easy prey to the descending Goths and Vandals.

Grand old England—our mother country—was treading in the same path until the Reformation, when the attention of a few men was attracted towards the ignorance of the masses, and Raikes began his Sunday-schools, and Lancaster followed with a more extended plan, until at last, as one of the most important results of this great reform, universal education is not only the motto of this grand empire but the actual experience, while the coming generation of the British people will be a thinking, reasoning people, evolving one of the best systems of government known to the monarchical world ; while to-day all the principal governments of Europe except, per-

haps, the Russian despotism, are moving grandly on in the the great work of popular education.

In our own country there is inaugurated a noble emulation between the States as to which shall be superior in strength, wealth, intellect and social standing, contributing most to the glory and success of our common country. Among the various means and instrumentalities brought into use in this grand competition, so to speak, is the common school system in the education of the masses. So positive is this state of things that no one State or community can of choice ignore the great work. Imagine, if you can, Florida, with her generous climate, soil and waters, declaring that she would have no schools, except here and there one that wealth might provide for the children of the wealthy and well-to-do citizen; her 50,000 children who were in attendance upon her public schools for the school years of 1883-84 turned out upon the streets and highways in indolence and vagabondage, and tell me if you do not conjure up a state of society horrible to contemplate. But more, she would become the great basin of ignorance and vice, into which the vicious, ignorant, and criminal of all other communities would pour, as does the ever on-rolling river into the great ocean basin. For as does proud flesh slough off from a healing sore, so would this ignorance and vice recede before the advancing march of intelligence and virtue in all the other States, and would as certainly seek and find out a place in accord with their own terrible condition as that water seeks and unerringly finds its own level, and our own beautiful Florida in the condition above conceived would be their paradise. May the beneficent Father of us all interpose against such a fate for any State making up our great Union.

In view of these considerations, does it not behoove every community or State from motives of the highest as well as those of a more selfish character, to remove ignorance without its domain, to guard against the offspring of so great a curse, which is superstition instead of true religion; mischief, vice,

crime, filth and hideousness of both person and character, instead of usefulness, purity, virtue, cleanliness and beauty of life and feature? Should we not seek to educate and elevate our humanity for the glory of Him who made us, for the pride and glory we should take in it, and for the peace, joy and happiness of our own being?

Now, to educate to this end is not only to teach the usual studies pursued in the common schools of the land, or in other schools, but by precept upon precept and line upon line, patiently applied; impress the mind of the pupil with the presence and authority of the Creator, his duty as a citizen to his country, his responsibility to his Creator and fellowmen; his duty to regard aright the rights of his fellowman, and inspire in the mind of the pupil an absolute love of honor. School knowledge supplemented thus will produce the order of citizen we should most desire.

Leaving these higher reasons for our duty as to the universal education of the people, let us for a few moments dwell upon the more sordid and selfish motives which actuate men. The God-given climate alluded to before, the generous soil, the abundant and beautiful streams and lakes with which our grand State abound, and the wonderful development and advancement we are making, all are attracting the attention of the people of all parts of our country and many parts of the world. These are coming and prospecting, and to use a Biblical phrase, "spying out the land." They will find it abounding in golden fruit and paying truckeries or garden farms, the silken fibre, and the fruit of the vine. These will suffice in one direction; but, then, true to a noble Americanism, they inquire about the schools and church privileges, and mark me as I say it, those communities which present the best schools and the best church privileges will secure the best and most-to-be-desired immigrant, and it will enjoy the very best condition of society. It has been said by an English writer that the American bases his judgment upon the desirability of

a place or community, upon three things or facts, viz: the church, the school, and the newspaper. The first meets his cravings for the old church at his former home, with all its sacred remembrances and holy associations, and keeps alive not only his religious sentiment, but his patriotism. The school affords him relief from anxiety in regard to the culture of his children; at his former home these have always been supplied, and he cannot contemplate their absence, even with the shadow of toleration. The live, pushing newspaper is his index of the thrift and business character of the place. If these three suit him he is anchored and ready for his share of the upbuilding of his adopted home, and as a result to any such State or community, life's very joys and pleasures, as well as all material values, will be enhanced, and the best type of human society developed. I am rejoiced to know from actual intercourse with the people of our wide-spread State that they are resolved upon the education of the children, and while I would with all my heart eliminate politics and party from the school work, it is impossible. A public school system is part of the governmental machinery, and must be administered by the government. This being true, it is equally true that parties, of whatever ethics or name, are responsible to the people for the manner in which the government is administered in all its details; and among the most important of these is the school work. And here let me declare that I have seen enough to know that in Florida the precious boon of the school has so fastened itself upon the affections and esteem of the people that the man, or set of men, or party who would deprive them of it would politically die in the day they attempted it, strangled by those fathers and mothers who, because of straightened circumstances were obliged to grow up in ignorance, to whom the books have been sealed, and mysterious things—even the precious Word of God—locked up to them unless some kind-hearted minister of the gospel, or some loving neighbor should drop in, and from the grand old pages

read some loving message. But now their own children, when the labor of the day is over and the frugal evening meal eaten, and the father and mother, and as Robbie Burns would have said, "the wee bairns," gather around the broad old fire-place, the child opens its reader and reads to father and mother the thoughts of others, and of the wondrous things of far-off countries and peoples, and the crude home by these privileges is made almost a heaven, while the faces of the parents are well-nigh transfigured at the new experience and joy, and their children too. Woe to that man or party of men who would dare despoil them of their precious boon.

Both the great parties are, because of all this, openly pledged to the maintenance of a sound, healthy public school system. I mean the two great parties—Democratic and Republican—for I do not recognize in the non-descript thing, now walking up and down the State in skeleton shape, a party. But as the Hon. Judge Pardee of the United States Court said the other day, in Alabama, when selecting election supervisors under the United States Statute, providing for supervisors to be chosen from both parties, the clerk had suggested one whom the Judge recognized as a Republican, and when another was suggested, the Judge asked to what party he belonged, the clerk responded "to the Independent party." The name was rejected, His Honor declaring there was no such party; it was a fraud. The great Democratic party, both in its National and State platforms, stands pledged to a liberal system of public education. So also the Republican party, and I know that, as certain as there are mechanical forces at work in the physical universe, overcoming obstacles to progress and achievement, so there are more subtle forces operating in the moral and mental world, enforcing principle and truth, and that these are found developed in leading minds and hearts everywhere in our country. And as well do I know that the great and good men, found in the Democratic party in every State in the land will see to it that their party is kept true to its pledges and princi-

ples; and yet I observe that a considerable portion of our people are suddenly stirred up by the unweighed words of a gentleman speaking under enthusiastic circumstances from the political stump, while their apprehension is stirred by a busy local politician who strives to construe this expression into a determination on the part of the Democratic party to destroy the schools and the personal liberties of the colored people. And this is being accepted in the face of the faithful and fair administration of government in our State for a period of nearly eight years, during which time, as an adherent of the Democratic party, I challenge a successful charge of any neglect or any abridgment of the rights of any part or class of the people. On the contrary I charge, without fear of successful contradiction, that every interest of the people has been advanced—especially is this so in regard to the public schools. Our colored friends, whom I am glad to greet and welcome here to-night, are, I am sorry to hear, particularly disturbed at the speech to which I have incidentally alluded, and seem to lose sight of the experience and practical demonstration of the Democratic plan of action in regard to their privileges, which they have witnessed during the eight years of Democratic control and management. No honest colored man, of any degree of intelligence, can stand up here and say, as he contemplates the dread and final judgment to which he must go, that their schools have not been multiplied and greatly improved. Take, for instance, your own Staunton *as it was called*—run, as it was, but little better than a show at which to gratify the curiosity of the tourist and take up collections, the use of which has never been known, perhaps—and compare its character with the past eight years. Who was the first man to move with the members of your race to supply a principal of your own color, believing that if competent men could be found it would result in a benefit to your children? He was a Democrat, and one who has been true to a proper discharge of his duty as indicated by his party. And yet, in the face of all this, you will be-

lieve their resides terror in a few unweighed words, rather than believe that which has been demonstrated. In view of this, I am glad to say here to-night that the Democratic party has no gush with which to catch any particular element of the people, but that it stands squarely on principle, believing that every man, whether born on the soil, or made a citizen by adoption, or other circumstances, stands on its own merits, and that his success or failure will depend on his own industry, honesty of purpose and perseverance; that the government is of, by and for such people, and in providing schools they are provided from principle and not from sentiment; and that as long as there are colored or white children in the State, there will be provision made for their education—not because they are colored children or white children, but because they are children of the State, who, when they shall have reached their majority will be clothed with the rights of citizenship, and therefore should be qualified to exercise those rights intelligently and honestly. One more credit I claim: I have in the beginning^c of my address alluded to the long-ago prejudice existing at the South as against popular education, resulting from the peculiar institutions within her borders; that that prejudice has been overcome, or else laid aside, and the new order of things accepted, and while in their control have faithfully carried out everything for which they were pledged, and the truth of their acceptance of every situation demonstrated; and the great bulk of money paid for these purposes is the money of the Democratic party, cheerfully laid upon the altar of State.

A slight review of the educational work and its increase during the past eight years will be appropriate just here, for the purpose of showing what the Democratic party really mean in regard to their pledges. At the close of the year 1876, under Governor Stearns, at which time the death knell of Radicalism was rung out forever in Florida, there were only 676 public schools in the State, many of these had been built and equipped by the Freedman's Bureau, and therefore the party

in the State deserve no credit, though they had the reins of government for eight long years of misrule, while at the close of the year 1883, seven years of Democratic rule, the number of schools had been increased to 1,479. At the close of the year 1876, the enrollment of children on the school registers 28,444, while at the close of the seventh year of Democratic rule, 1883, there were enrolled 51,935 children. For the year 1876, there was expended, strictly for education \$158,846 while for the year 1883 there was expended for the same purpose \$249,054, and in addition to this there has been appropriated \$8,000 for teachers' institutes and normal schools for the years 1883-1884. One of these normal schools for colored teachers has been conducted for two months at the city of Gainesville, under three most excellent instructors, and one at Tallahassee for the same length of time under similar instruction. These were open to all respectable persons of color from the East on the one side, and all from the West on the other side. Teachers' institutes have been held in seven counties; in Jefferson and Jackson for both white and colored, while arrangements for several others are made for a later period in the fall. Normal departments have also been arranged for in both the East and West Florida seminaries, where special normal instruction is given those who desire to teach as a profession, and I have great reason to believe much good has been accomplished. In addition to this, there has been appropriated for the years 1883-1884, \$10,000 each for the building, equipping and operating, a Blind and Deaf-mute asylum, which is now being rapidly erected on a beautiful site of five acres given by the citizens of St. Augustine, adjoining its northern limits, and will be ready for the reception of these unfortunate children early in December next, both white and colored. The common school fund, by the sale of lands and a careful investment of funds, has been increased since January 1st, 1882, \$200,000. Thus has the educational work of Florida made as rapid strides as her advancement in enterprise

and internal improvement, which has been phenominal. And as the Democratic party is surely destined to continue in the administration of government in Florida, we may confidently expect greater advancement still.

Therefore, I cordially invite all true lovers of the State and our common humanity, to come and join our onward moving ranks, and lend a helping hand in winning a high place in the grand union of States for our Florida, allowing her to be second to none in her love of law and order, her honor and virtue, her reverence of God and His Holy Law, and her schools and the progress of her children.



CHAPTER IV.

EAST AND WEST FLORIDA SEMINARIES.

(REPORT 1884.)

These institutions are constantly taking higher stands and advanced steps in general proficiency and usefulness, and commend themselves to the patronage of the people in the East and West divisions of the State, as provided by law, and should be heartily encouraged and supported. Each is supplied with an admirable corps of teachers, and presents as fine and promising classes of pupils as can be seen in any school in the country. Both of these Seminaries are empowered to grant diplomas or confer degrees.

EASTERN DIVISION.

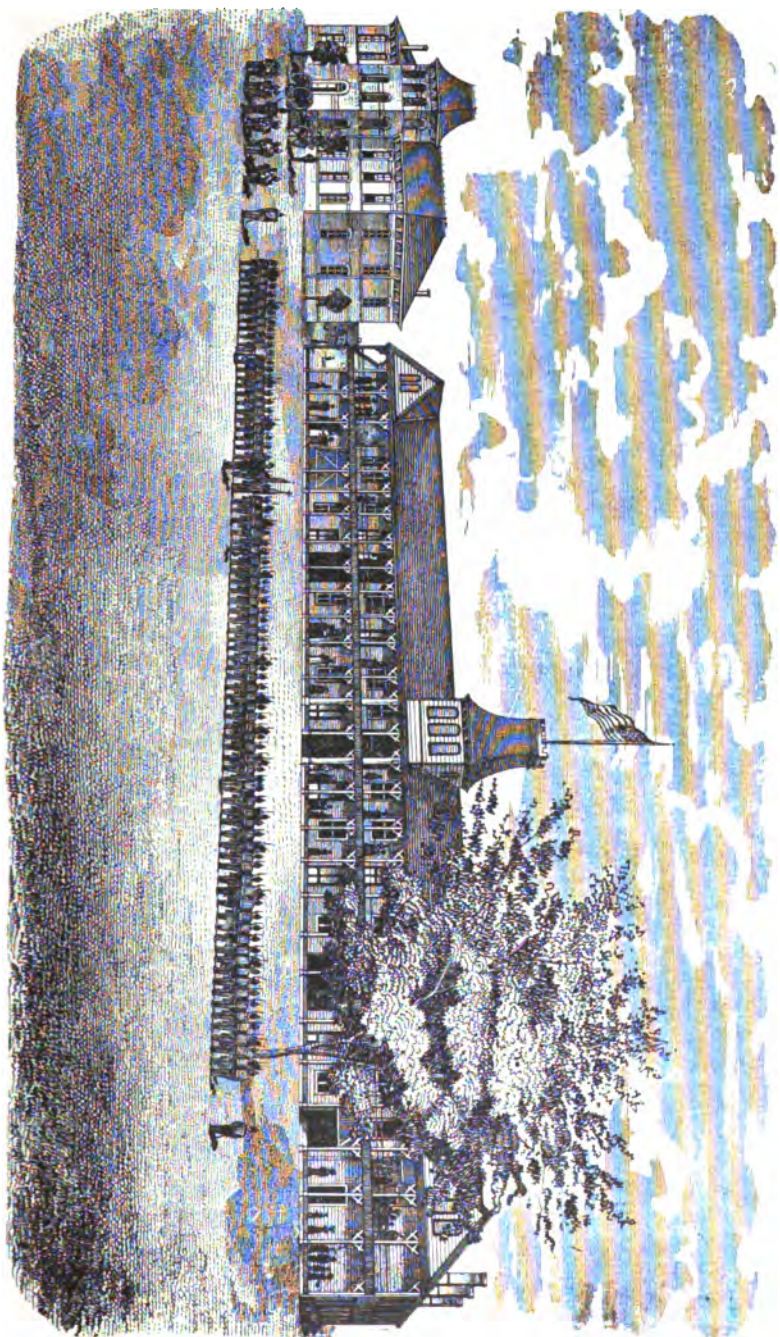
The *burned building* has been replaced by a *handsome and commodious brick edifice*, with four large class-rooms down stairs, and an ample study hall, library room, and Superintendent's office. The building is well furnished throughout. A Library has been started. Most of the new books are of standard literary merit.

WESTERN DIVISION.

In view of the prospective increase of pupils and a demand for room, the Board has caused to be built a commodious addition capable of accommodating many more pupils, adding much to the appearance as well as comfort and convenience of the Seminary. It has been supplied with new school furniture and facilities.

(REPORT FOR 1885-6).

Both of the Seminaries are well organized and have a full corps of excellent instructors, and are designed to impart a



EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

thorough academic course of instruction. As already remarked, they have each a Normal Department, in which very good work is done. It has been my duty and pleasure to visit both and to see as full instruction given in these departments, as at any place, it has been my pleasure to visit. It is true that these Seminaries have not the facilities that many Normal schools have, but they have excellent workers and produce good results.

In them young men and women, who do not wish the regular academic course, but being qualified, educationally and morally, may enter and take the full Normal course, without charge, which provision is the result of the appropriation made by the Legislature.

The reports made by the Presidents of these Seminaries exhibit a very satisfactory state of progress, as to increase in attendance, the deportment of the pupils, the discipline and advancement of the school, and are on file in this office for examination.

* 1887. The two State schools, known as East and West Florida Seminaries, the former located at the city of Gainesville, in Alachua county, and the latter at the Capitol City, Tallahassee. Both these Seminaries are admirably organized and are doing an excellent work for the youth of the State.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT, 1888).

The two Seminaries, State Institutions, one being designed for that part of the State east of the Suwannee River, and one for that part west of of the same river, the former is located at Gainesville, and the latter at Tallahassee, the Capitol of the State. Both of these Seminaries are excellent schools and afford a full academic course. Each of these schools are designed for the pupils from all over the division of the State for which they have been located, and the Presidents of each are exceedingly desirous that the people all over these districts

* Superintendents Report, pp 9-12.

should avail themselves of the admirable opportunity offered, and attend upon these exercises. * The presence of the dread pestilence in the eastern part of the State prevented the regular timely opening of the Seminary at Gainesville. Col. E. P. Cater, President, writes, however, that he is assured of a good and prosperous opening for the Spring term beginning, Jan. 2, 1889.

In 1889, Major Russell writes of West Florida Seminary. It is a most excellent school, and is from year to year increasing in quality and effectiveness of its work. Its curriculum begins with a preparatory or academic course, and gives a full college course, leading to the degrees of A. B. & B. C.

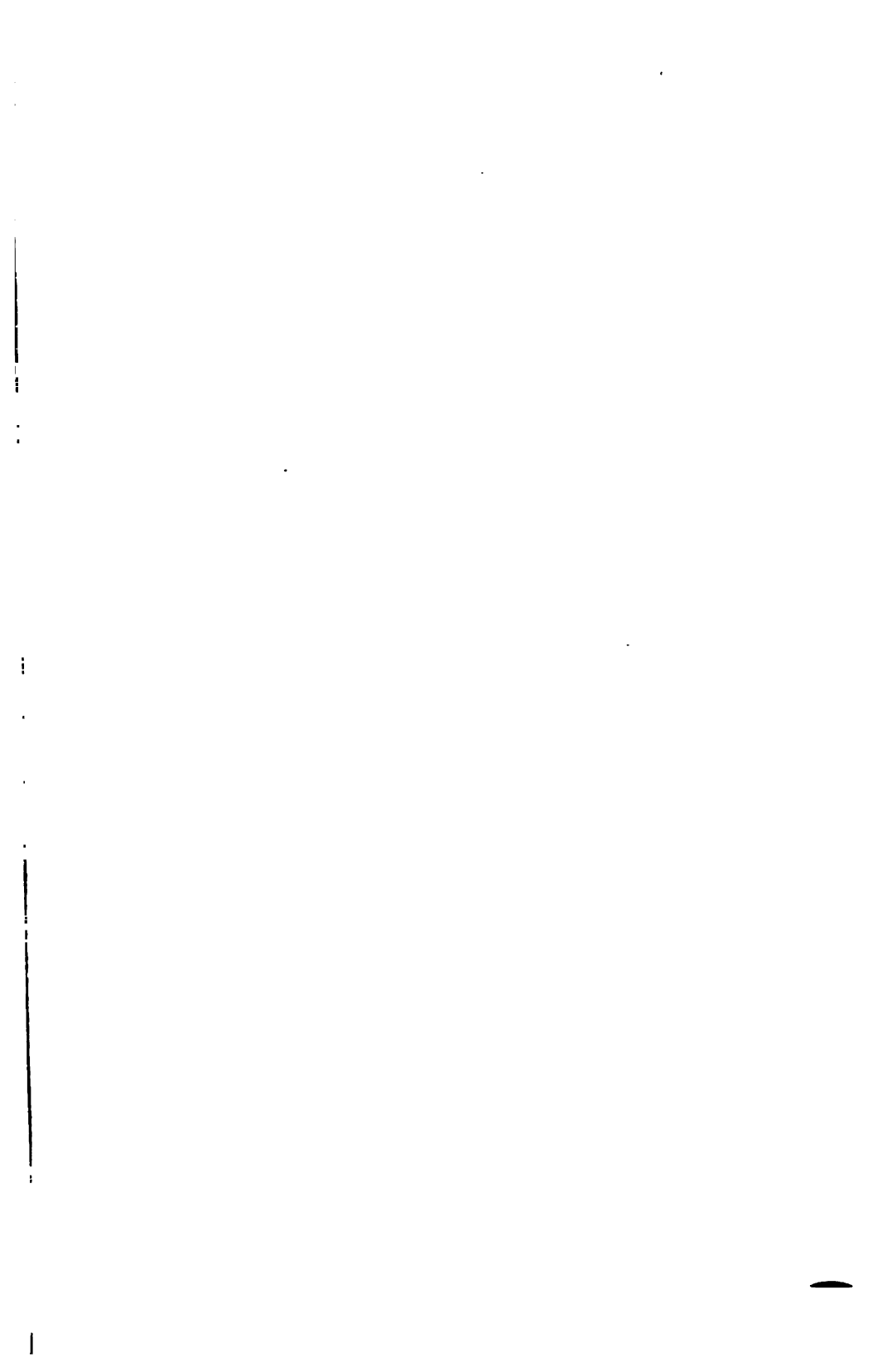
An excellent feature of this school is that both sexes are admitted and share the same opportunities afforded for the education of young men and women. Under our own genial and safe climate and in the midst of admirable social and religious influence. The Legislature of 1889 appropriated \$15,000 for the purpose of building a new edifice and dormitory in addition to the present buildings, which, when completely finished and equipped, will be second, to but few, in the South. He then referred to the President, Col. Geo. M. Edgar's letter, a report of the work.

In 1890: writing of West Florida Seminary, Superintendent Russell says: A very fine, new college edifice is now near completion, and will be fully ready and equipped for the work.

Situated magnificently upon College Hill, over-looking the beautiful panorama of landscape peculiar to this section of the State. The buildings and location become no mean adjunct in the educational work of the West Florida Seminary.

* Report of East Florida Seminary is found on p, 12, in annual report of this year.

* Report 1891.





WEST FLORIDA SEMINARY.

WEST FLORIDA SEMINARY.

* This excellent school situated at the Capitol City of the State, on beautiful grounds, has just occupied its *new building*, an imposing and commodious edifice, modeled in modern adaptabilities to school use, and supplied with all necessary conveniences and facilities, (further report see pp. 10 and 11):

EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY

Is located in the heart of the peninsular portion of the State, in the City of Gainesville, full of life, push and healthful growth, calculated to stimulate the youth to great activity and awaken his ambition to noble purpose.

Writing of the East Florida Seminary for 1892.—This admirable seminary, with its fine building, the study halls, barracks, and a dormitory, and excellent faculty; has for years been a standing blessing for the people. Hundreds of young men and women have been sent out to their homes who have entered the greater responsibilities and duties of active life, and have reflected honor and credit upon the seminary and are doing good work in the various departments in the great hive of human industry and are an honor to the State.

“See printed report for 1891.”



COMMENCEMENT.

MAJOR RUSSELL WAS INTRODUCED BY COL. CATER AND HEARTILY WELCOMED. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES WAS HANDED TO HIM AND A NUMBER OF HEARTS BEAT MORE RAPIDLY AS THEY SAW THE LITTLE FOLDED SLIP, THAT MEANT SUCCESS TO SOME AND FAILURE TO THE REST.

EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY, MAY 26, 1892.

Major Russell began by introducing the story of the mother of Grachii, who, pointing to her sons, proclaimed them to be her jewels. The young men and women of the schools of Florida are her jewels, and she loves them with a mother's love. This work of the State is a most responsible one, for who can measure the infinite destiny of the human mind. In every race in the human life there must be prize winners and prize losers, but there is no failure in a competition for excellence; in striving for the top, all gain part of the hill.

Another race soon opens for the losers until we reach the insurmountable wall and here Faith lends her wings to help us over, therefore take courage. (Names were announced.) In a few earnest, eloquent words Major Russell warned the winners to make good the use of the gift which they possessed, by which those medals had been won, and to use it only on the right side. What are most needed in this country is upright, loving Christian young men and women, who would rather die than violate their integrity.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY—THE PRIZES DELIVERED BY MAJOR
A. J. RUSSELL.

MAY 24, 1894.

The prizes were handed the winners in appropriate words by that golden tongued orator of our Land of Flowers, Major A. J. Russell. He said "It was a proud hour to him standing amid the beauty of woman and the strength of man, in the halls of the seat of learning." He gave a life retrospect of his labors to the grand cause of education. "The trophies of the ensanguined field are as naught compared with the laurel wreath earned in the civic battles of life in the struggle to banish ignorance, in raising the standard of pure *American* citizenship." He could look back to the days when our schools all over this fair State were a reproach to civilization. To his splendid efforts belong the meed of praise due our splendid school system of to-day. The sacrifice of a life of toil was gladly given by this grand man for the betterment of the lives of all the children of the State. Let the praise of a grateful people be the reward of unselfish toil.*

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF FLORIDA'S
GREATEST SCHOOL.

MAY 22, 1894.

The commencement exercises of East Florida Seminary were inaugurated last night in the assembly room of the academic building. The large room was packed from wall to wall by people of Gainesville and various portions of the State. It was one of the most successful demonstrations in the history of this celebrated institution.

The front wall of the room just back of the platform occupied by the speakers had been neatly decorated.

Col. E. P. Cater, in an able address, introduced Major A. J. Russell, who had been appointed spokesman for the judges. After a short response

*Colonel Cater eloquently portrayed the debt of gratitude we all owe him.

to Col. Cater, Major Russell reported that a great degree of excellence characterized each recitation. He then delivered the medals in his usual appropriate manner.

Following the award of medals Major A. J. Russell delivered an address, in which he congratulated the successful competitors and advised them.—*Gainesville Sun*.

MAY 29, 1895.

The commencement exercises of East Florida Seminary commenced last night and were well attended. As upon previous evenings the audience was highly entertained.

Colonel Cater following the delivery of the diplomas introduced Major A. J. Russell of Jacksonville, who followed in an eloquent address. In the course of his speech the Major impressed his young hearers who were just entering upon their career with the great responsibilities of life. He referred to this country as a grand inheritance, and in elegant words and manner asked if they were ready to meet the great responsibility. The Major took his seat at the conclusion of his address amid a storm of applause.

EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT.

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, MAY 29, 1895.

When Major Russell was presented to the audience he received an ovation of real homage; his argument was forceful and its delivery eloquent.—*Times-Union*.

Colonel Cater writing to Mrs. Russell says: "By the death of your noble husband this Seminary lost a strong supporter, and I lost a true and valued friend; but the state mourns the loss of one of her most gifted sons."



EARNEST AND REPEATED APPEALS FOR A REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF 1884.

I would respectfully call your attention to the necessity of a Reformatory-Industrial School, to which may be sent vagrant children, who will not attend the public schools, who will not work, who are found loitering about the streets in vagabond idleness in every town, village, and business center, and who are frequently caught stealing and committing other crimes, and from whose ranks come a large portion of those who are being sent to the State and county prisons from every Circuit Court and from which they come, in nearly every case, hardened criminals ready for the commission of more violent crimes against the peace and dignity of society and humanity. Let a large tract of land, say, five hundred or a thousand acres, fertile and productive, be procured, and upon it erect various useful trades, so that upon the land farming and agriculture may be taught and all the trades learned by these children, who are now growing up to be a curse to themselves and to society at large, and who may come out of the school qualified to earn an honorable livelihood and live useful lives.

It will be seen from the State Treasurer's Report that there is a large surplus in the treasury, and I know of no better use which can be made of it than to establish such an institution as this which I have described, and which is so absolutely necessary to such a population as ours.

If established, such laws can be enacted as will ensure such a term in the school as will effect the desired end, a thorough reform, sufficient knowledge, both as to education and the trades, as to render them good citizens and which can be accomplished without the disgrace or hardening influence of a commitment to prison.

I earnestly commend the matter to the careful consideration of the Legislature.

FROM REPORT OF 1887.

I earnestly trust the Legislature will give the consideration to this subject it so much deserves, also the matter recommended in my report to the Legislature of 1885, in reference to the establishment of a Reformatory-Industrial Farm and School for the commitment and reformation of vagrant and vicious youth, who are found in cities, towns, and villages throughout the State, a growing evil, at present unstinted in its growth and which threatens a terrible future.

FROM REPORT OF 1889.

I beg to call the attention of the Legislature through your Excellency, to the absolute need of a school for the reformation, and at the same time, the education of vagrant and vicious boys and girls, many of whom are orphans and friendless and are thus left to drift away into crime and vice, and before they are men and women, are ripened for the jail.

The public school cannot do this work. The introduction of this element into their numbers would but work ruin, for as the little lump of leaven is used to illustrate the growth and spread of a good influence, so the introduction of vice and evil will, against all effort corrupt many.

Our public schools have earned a character for purity, good morals and excellent discipline, the objection on the part of many in the past to them, because of a supposed want of these qualities, has been overcome, and the children of the refined and best parentage are now found in attendance upon them, while the virtuous and respectable poor are their classmates, and if a pupil is found incorrigibly vicious he is expelled. These and other circumstances cry aloud for a school of the kind suggested, located in a place secluded from city life and influences, where the vices, of these almost lost ones, may be eradicated, new character built, trades taught, the soil tilled intelligently, and they may at last, under the blessings of God

be turned out good men and women in love with their new lives and opportunities. Money appropriated for this purpose could not be more wisely or humanely expended.

FROM REPORT OF 1890.

I must again call your Excellency's attention to the absolute necessity for a School of Reform, into which vicious and vagrant boys and girls may be placed upon proper adjudication, and be educated and taught useful avocations of life, and, under God be returned to human society, useful and honorable men and women.

Such a school would not act only as a curative of the evil, but to a great extent be a preventive of that class of youth which proves such a curse to the cities and towns of the State, and who make the inmates of the prisons. I receive frequent letters from parents and relatives asking if there is no school in the State where their boy or boys may be subjected to rigid discipline and be thoroughly restrained. Such a school is very much needed and if properly managed would soon become largely self-supporting. I will suggest that a certain portion of the Common School Fund be set apart annually for the support of such a school, since some of these boys and girls will come from almost every county; each county will be the recipient of the benefits of such a school and hence the equity in the use of a part of the fund mentioned for the purpose.

FROM REPORT OF 1891.

To complete our excellent system of public education, we need now only a Reformatory School, with farm and shops as well as the books, into which the tainted and vicious youth of our cities, towns, and villages may be placed and while being educated so trained also morally that they may leave the school prepared to enter into good useful citizenship. Such a

school would be in the interest of true economy in that it would relieve the public treasury greatly of that most horrible expense of the jails and state prison, from which rarely ever comes any other return but hardened criminals and abandoned hope, but to return to prison for deeper and more dreadful crime.

FROM REPORT 1892.

I am impressed that it is my duty to again call your Excellency's attention to the necessity of a Reformatory School in the State, to which young boy and girl criminals or violators of the law may be committed. This is the one thing now needed to complete the excellent educational system of Florida. My attention has been called to this necessity by letters from parents and friends of boys, and also some girls, who while still loved by relatives, there remains no hope, blinded with love, seeking to know of me; if there is no school or place in which they might be placed and kept until of age, with the hope of being dissociated from associates they might be permanently reformed, educated and taught some honorable avocation with which they might come out upon the world again. Some efforts to work such vicious boys into our State institutions which have military discipline, and of course found upon inquiry that they could not enter, have also deepened the conviction upon my mind of the necessity for such a school.

To visit the jails and prisons of the cities and large towns of the State and see the number of boys imprisoned there in the company of abandoned and lost men, hardened by a life of crime and unrepentant, is but to see the harvest of the prisons, year after year, reaped and scattered broadcast upon our fair State, more to be dreaded than pestilence, storms or conflagrations.

Home of the Orange Tree

Song ARRANGED FOR ARBOR DAY
AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO

• M. A. J. RUSSELL •

• MRS. A. H. RAVESSES •

• FORT DADE FLA. •

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO MAJ. A. J. RUSSELL.

3

HOME OF THE ORANGE TREE.

A SONG FOR ARBOR DAY.

by M^{rs} A. H. RAVESIES.

PIANO.

The musical score is written for piano and consists of six systems of music. Each system contains a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The piece is in 2/4 time and ends with a double bar line.

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1655.3.

4. And now to the maker of all, A song of praise we sing, His mercies around us

1. A song for the beautiful trees, On this sweet Ar-bor day, Let its melody thank thee
2. A song for the palm and the pine, And for every tree that grows, The Orange, Citron, and
3. An-oth-er song for the Oak, He has stood a hundred years, Mid his storm, fire and

fall, Like rose leaves at the spring; Each breeze is fraught with love, Each flow-

breeze, As our tribute of praise we pay; To the Giver of all things good To the
Lime, That hide from the Northern snows, With fruitage so luscious and sweet, Re-fresh-
smoke, Li-ke a king among his peers; When the storm has roused his might, He

er sweet-fel-lings bring Each tree His wisdom pro-ves, Each bird His praises sing.

God of the forests grand Who fashioned each leaf in the wood, And painted each bird in the land.
ing her sons of toil, With beauty and fragrance replete, They bask in our Sunny soil.
spread his sheltering arms, O'er dai-sy and pan-sy so bright And proudly shield their charms.

CHORUS.

SOPRANO. Home sweet home home of the or-ange tree, Home sweet home A

ALTO. Home sweet home home of the or-ange tree, Home sweet home A

TENOR. Home sweet home home of the or-ange tree, Home sweet home A

PIANO.

SOP. ho-me in the South for me.

ALTO. ho-me in the South for me.

TENOR. ho-me in the South for me.

ARBOR DAY—1886.

Immediately upon the issue of the Governor's Proclamation setting apart February 10, 1886, as Arbor Day, I wrote each County Superintendent in the State:

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., January 6, 1886.

DEAR SIR—In obedience to a proclamation issued by his Excellency, Governor E. A. Perry, setting apart Wednesday, the 10th day of February next, as Arbor Day, I desire especially to call your attention and that of the Board of Public Instruction to the views of the Governor referring to the participation which the schools shall take in the day. I desire that you notify each teacher in charge of a school throughout your county that the day will be spent in the planting of trees, shrubs, and hardy flowers in and around their school buildings and lots.

That each teacher shall devote an hour or more in impressing the importance of trees as they relate to the climate, health and beauty of the country, the home, the church and the school, and especially the silent cities of our beloved dead.

That the children respond with short, but appropriate recitations; a few being selected for the occasion.

That the children be impressed with the fact that it is not only a duty, but a high and beneficent privilege to care for and perpetuate the growth of these trees and shrubs, that they may feel that they have a kind of proprietary right in their respective school premises.

You will please report to me at this place as soon as possible the number of schools participating, and the number of children present at each, on that day.

Finally, to use the means at your command to induce the attendance and participation of as many of the parents as possible.

Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

I urged the Superintendents and the Boards of Public Instruction to at once begin work in relation to suitable exercises, and to make the observance of the day as nearly universal as possible, suggesting proper exercises, involving valuable lessons of reverence, patriotism, and material good.

As a result, the day was enthusiastically observed in seventeen of the counties. Native trees, shrubs, and vines

were planted in many of the school lots, and upon the grounds of the State College and Seminaries.

THE ORDER OF GOVERNOR PERRY DESIGNATING YESTERDAY
AS ARBOR DAY.

APRIL 11 1886.

The school children caught the idea with enthusiasm.

This was doubtless due, in part, to the hearty accord with which Major A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has seconded the movement.—*Times-Union*.

FLORIDA'S FIRST ARBOR DAY.

In response to a request for information relative to the observance of our first Arbor Day, the Superintendent of Public Instruction writes as follows:

DEAR SIR:—Arbor Day was enthusiastically observed in seventeen of the counties. Native trees, shrubs and vines, were planted in many of the school lots, and upon the grounds of the State College and Seminaries. The report of the number of trees planted was not as complete as I desired, but I can reasonably fix the number at twenty thousand.

Not only were the school lots thus planted with trees, but several towns, by ordinance, compelled the planting of them in streets and lanes. Many hitherto neglected church yards were cleaned up, shade trees and beautiful hardy shrubs, were planted and tended, and are now things of beauty and pleasure in and around these sacred places. The silent cities of our dead came under this new inspiration and were freshly adorned with living green, with sturdy trees and beautiful flowers, all of which are now speaking to the living in a language at the same time ennobling and instructive.

Over and above all the physical good resulting from these annual tree plantings, comes the excellent lessons of patriotism taught by the very contact, the doing something of permanent good for others who shall come in the distant future, generations unborn, as an illustration of the patriotic thought born of

the occasion. I will state that hundreds of the trees planted were named for our distinguished President Cleveland, our beloved and honored Governor Perry, also many distinguished citizens of the past and present; and I learn since that these trees are remembered and pointed out to visitors as the Cleveland tree, the Perry tree, etc.

The number of schools reported by the Superintendents of the counties participating as above, is 379, while the number of children entering heartily and gladly into the exercise is 19,186. In addition to these large numbers of parents, friends, and visitors were present. Thus will be seen the readiness with which the people of Florida and especially her children embrace any suggestion for good, from those set up over them; for only thirty days notice was given setting apart the day which produced such large results.

I am truly yours,

A. J. RUSSELL.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 20, 1886.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, }
TALLAHASSEE, January 8, 1887.

MR _____

County Superintendent of Schools:

DEAR SIR—His Excellency Governor E. A. Perry, has issued his Proclamation for an Arbor Day, setting apart Wednesday, the 9th day of February next for that purpose. I desire to call your attention, and that of the Board of Public Instruction, to the Governor referring to the participation which the public schools shall take in the observance of the day.

It is desired that you notify each teacher in charge of a school throughout your county that the day will be spent in the planting of trees and shrubs, and the replanting of those which failed in the planting of last year, in and around their grounds.

That an hour or more be devoted to suitable exercises setting forth the importance of tree planting, as to its relations to climate, health and beauty of the country, the home, the church, and the school.

You will please report to me at this place as soon as possible the number of schools participating, the number of children present, and the number

of trees planted, that I may give the observance of the day the prominence it may deserve in my report to the Governor and the next Legislature.

It is expected that the County Superintendents and the Boards of Public Instruction will use their best endeavors to bring about excellent results.

Respectfully,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

REPORT OF 1888.

I am greatly pleased to be able to report the great interest manifested in the recurrence of this delightful and very profitable observance on the part of all the people; they realize the truly educational and ennobling influence exerted as well as the profitable effects, and are desirous for a continuance and permanency of the day, with its delightful exercises 7,490 trees planted.

REPORT OF 1889.

In obedience to the Governor's Proclamation setting apart the 14th day of February, as Arbor Day, I issued instructions to the various County Superintendents, calling upon them to see that the day was used not only in planting trees, but in inculcating the healthful, moral and useful lessons to be learned from the trees and forests, of the wisdom and mercy of God in His plan of making our beautiful earth a healthy and happy habitation.

REPORT OF 1890.

The planting of trees on Arbor Day was inaugurated in this State in 1886. 55,000 trees have been planted. Besides these and the inestimable blessings that will flow from them, the lesson of a lofty and inspiring character so repeatedly taught and felt by so many parents and children, lifting the

(* Circular letter sent to each County Superintendent.)

(*Arbor Day for 1891 and 1892 were observed in a like manner.)

thought to God, the "God of the granite and the rose" though invisible, yet everywhere present in the activities of His creation, who can estimate the results of such a work ?

I am glad to report a steady growing approval and appreciation of the day, and the uses and benefits in the minds and hearts of the people everywhere, and a still more earnest desire for its continuance comes to me from many sources.

HOME OF THE ORANGE TREE.

The author writes: "It was dedicated to your honored husband on account of the high esteem and admiration, as a Christian gentleman, an educator and a Mason, we both had for him, *especially* my husband, who was more intimately acquainted with him. Mr. Ravesties was Superintendent of Public Instruction of Pasco County, and frequently received beautiful letters from him."



CHAPTER V.

In a letter to Mrs. Russell, Hon E. K. Foster, of Sanford, writes thus:

"Your honored husband needs no word of mine to add lustre to his name as a faithful promoter of the cause of education in Florida. When I was Superintendent of Public Instruction he gave me both encouragement and aid.

"While he held that office he gave to it all his labor and time, not only in building up the public school system in the State, but in encouraging the scholars to greater and better works, and *many now grown to manhood and womanhood date their advancement from some kind and helpful word of his.*"

TRIBUTE.

ORLANDO, FLA., Oct. 19, 1896.

Mrs. A. J. Russell:

DEAR MADAM—For eighteen years Hon. Albert J. Russell and I were warm friends. I soon found him a large-hearted, whole-souled gentleman, God-fearing, but never hesitating to do what he thought to be his duty to man.

In his public school work, while County and State Superintendent, he considered the masses, using every endeavor to cheer and aid them in furthering their interests as communities, Counties and a State. A careful, trusting officer, living in the hearts of his constituency.

In his official duties he was prompt in every particular. *No man can say that Major Russell did not give him a respectful hearing, a prompt and decisive answer.*

In his public speeches, though diffident at the beginning, he soon warmed up to the subject and electrified his hearers.

His whole soul was wrapped up in the interest of mankind; to do the greatest good to the greatest number was uppermost in his desires. He frequently asked me if he had left anything undone, *being conscientious to a fault*.

I have been with him in many of his public occasions, and at each step it seemed that his zeal increased.

In his death we lost a very dear friend, and the State one of its most zealous workers for the good of the commonwealth. Requiescat in pace. J. T. BEEKS.

FROM REPORT OF 1884.

While it would appear unnecessary for me to allude to the importance and necessity of popular education, I so completely recognize the extraordinary importance of a thorough public school system for Florida, especially, that I feel constrained to urge upon the Legislature and the people a liberal support and maintenance of such a system in every county. First, for the beneficent effect upon our government, its refining and elevating influence upon general society, and the power and capability it bestows upon the people in pursuit of every avocation of life. Also, because of the fact that with our vast expanse of unsettled territory, our magnificent climate, and general as well as unique products, we are inviting and drawing our increased population in immigrants almost solely from the States in our own country, most of whom have been accustomed to the privileges of fine public schools, and who inquire of and look for them whenever they contemplate a removal.

In peopling our one State, for there is but one Florida in all the land, we have the opportunity, and it should be our aim, to select or influence the very best classes of society, whether as toilers, artisans, mercantile or professional men, and to do this we must present the proper inducements, among which there are none more potent than a good, liberal public

school system. These latter reasons, supplementing those higher motives above mentioned, should, I think, move the representatives of the people to a liberal provision for the education of the children. It is my pleasure to report a greatly increased interest on the part of the people in the work of the schools all over the State. In the discharge of my duties it has been my privilege to visit most of the counties. In most of them I have held public meetings and addressed and conferred with the people, who, without exception, have evinced a deep and abiding interest in the schools, and I am confident, from subsequent observation, much good has been done.

In obedience to the act of the Legislature of 1883, providing for a Teachers' Institute, I took up this very important work.

First, I organized and conducted for two months each, Normal Schools for colored teachers, one at Gainesville and one at Tallahassee. I employed the best instructors at my command, who earnestly and faithfully labored to instruct these people how to teach.

I visited these schools and labored by frequent lectures to impress them with the importance and responsibility of their work in relation to their race. I have every reason to believe much good has been done.

Every individual teacher or school patron or officer, will doubtless approve the work of the Teachers' Institute, and recognize the good results wherever they have been held and operated during the present year.

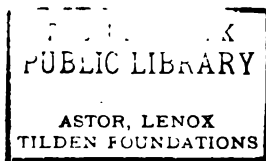
BI-ENNIAL REPORT OF 1885 AND 1886.

Much of the growth, advancement, efficiency and excellent result, is the outcome of the liberal provision made by our law-makers for the support and maintenance of all the machinery of our system. I feel assured that no urging on my part in the face of the results—the universal demand of the people everywhere for more and still better schools and teachers—is



GOV. E. A. PERRY AND HIS CABINET, 1885-88.

- 1 E. A. Perry,
- 2 Geo. H. McWhorter, Chief Justice,
- 4 W. D. Barrow, Comptroller, 6 John L. Crawford, Secretary State
- 7 E. S. Cull, Treasurer,
- 3 George P. Rainey, Associate Chief Justice,
- 8 A. J. Russell, Supt. Public Instruction,
- 8 David Lane, Adjutant General



necessary to continue the liberal action on the part of the Legislature which has characterized the past, or even to increase the appropriations, if found compatible with the ability and needs of the people.

In accordance with the act of the Legislature making an appropriation for holding Teachers' Institutes, I proceeded to organize and conduct the same.

Teachers are more alive to their work, recognizing that the day for "the old school-master, with his green spectacles and buckhorn-handled cane and birchen rod," has passed, and the day for real teachers has come; that thought and reason are involved, and that the best workers, with the best moral and mental results, are they whom the people will select for the instruction and training of their children in the school. Parents and guardians have awakened to a much deeper interest in the school, and have come to recognize their duty and relation to it in a broader and more liberal sense, are throwing their influence in its behalf by visitation and investigation, thus encouraging the teacher and pupil.

The increase in the number of schools has been gratifying, as well as, the increase in enrollment and attendance.

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, October 10, 1885.

Capt. W. D. Chipley, Pensacola, Fla.:

DEAR SIR: | Your generous letter of the 1st of October received. Permit me to thank you most heartily for the ample provisions made for the attendance of teachers, county superintendents and school officers, and especially for the grand and generous sentiment you express in sympathy with the great work I represent in the government of our beloved and prosperous State. I pledge you my utmost ability in endeavoring to have every teacher, superintendent and school officer avail themselves of this grand opportunity for improvement, and gathering the thought and experience of others who are thinking and laboring in a more extended field.

Section 30 of the school law, under the head of Teachers, is as follows: "No teacher while actually attending a teachers' institute, shall suffer a deduction of salary." I will see to it that each of the teachers, superintendents and school officers are properly and timely notified of the occasion, and urge them to attend. Indeed, I want this to be a regular State Institute, and believe that its influence for good can scarcely be estimated. Thanking you for myself and for our teachers and co-workers, and requesting you to keep me informed as to your further operations that I may do whatever I can to co-operate with the Florida Chautauqua in reference to this institute, or any of its very laudable enterprises, scattering good as it does, all over our State, I am truly and gratefully yours,

A. J. RUSSELL,

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

FLORIDA CHAUTAUQUA.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, MARCH 2, 1886.

Hon. A. J. Russell has done his utmost to induce an attendance of teachers from all parts of the State, the railroads have generously offered them nominal rates of passage, and now we have the gratifying spectacle of 230 Florida teachers gathered here for a week listening to many of the most eminent instructors in the land, from whom they cannot fail to learn a great deal that will be useful to them in the pursuit of their profession. The influence thus exerted in them ought materially to benefit the cause of education in this State by introducing new ideas and methods and advancing the standard of excellence.

Hon. A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Instruction, in response to an address of welcome by Rev. Dr. A. H. Gillett, thanked the management for affording the opportunity of "participating in such an intellectual feast" and for "introducing Chautauqua into this State." He stated that the C. L. S. Circles were at work in various parts of the State, and believed that their influence would be largely extended.

Dr. A. H. Gillett, Superintendent of the Assembly, then delivered a brief address of welcome to the teachers, which was responded to by Hon. A. J. Russell, Superintendent of Education of Florida, who then resumed the chair.

Thus assembled the first State Teachers' Association and the first Convention of County Superintendents ever held in the State.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

SUCCESS OF THE MEETING AT AUCILLA—ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

AUCILLA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, JULY 9, 1886.

The Teachers' Institute now in session at this place, is a grand event in the history of the County. It is greatly to be regretted that all the teachers are not present. They have missed a fine opportunity to teach and simplify the rudiments of education. Major Russell, State Superintendent, seemed to be much annoyed at this, and Governor Perry, in his address on Friday, said that unless those absent teachers could give good excuses, preference ought to be given those who were present. Much of the success of this Institute is due our worthy Superintendent, J. A. Walker, whose whole soul, mind and strength seems to be devoted to the education of our children. His zeal, energy and efficiency in this respect was very flatteringly alluded to by Governor Perry and the teachers of the Institute. During the week lectures on history, penmanship, methods of teaching,

*Major Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is urging all teachers who can to avail themselves of the excellent advantages offered in the approaching Teacher's Institutes commencing Monday, April 27, 1885.



FIRST STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, MARCH 2, 1986.

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reading, elocution, geography, primary numbers, duties of teachers, inventions and discoveries, mathematics and local geography, current topics, evolution and composition were delivered. These were given by Major Russell, Professors Felkel, Graham and Mrs H. K. Ingram. Prof. Felkel has already made a fine reputation throughout the State for his untiring zeal in the interests of the common schools.

Major Russell,—what can I say of this grand old hero of education, whose whole soul is in his great work, whose name is a household word throughout the length and breadth of the State? May he live long, may his eloquent voice be heard for years to come in the interest of our children, and when he is called from "labor to refreshments," may his grave be watered by the tears of those he has helped to educate.—*Times-Union*.

REPORT OF 1887.

It can be safely said there are but few children who live in isolated places now in the State to whom the door of the school is not opened without fee or hindrance, of any race or condition of the population, and there is every reason for believing there are comparatively very few of the youth of school age who are not able to read.

Every county in the State, even the most remote and isolated, is organized and has its public schools in operation. The six new counties created by the last Legislature have been organized and started off upon their work at the beginning of the school year with less friction than could possibly have been expected, reflecting great credit upon the officers selected to manage the affairs of the schools in their counties. In obedience to the law, I entered upon the work of Institutes as soon as practicable, the first being the State Teachers' Institute, held at DeFuniak Springs in the month of February, second week. Over three hundred of the most faithful, earnest and anxious of the teachers were present.

THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STATE ASSEMBLY AT DEFUNIACK.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, STATE OF FLORIDA, }
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. }

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., JAN. 15, 1887.

The session of the Institute will begin on Wednesday, February 22d at 10 o'clock a. m., and continue one week. Many of the foremost educators of the day and times will be present and give us the benefit of their long and tedious experience. I am informed by Mr. W. D. Chipley, that the same rates, one-half cent per mile, the round trip, will be obtained over all the railroads and lines of steamers as was obtained for us last year. The cost of living during the week will be reduced from what it was, even last year, and will be merely nominal. Surely every earnest teacher will avail himself of so excellent an opportunity for improvement and experience in the very important work in which they are engaged.

I earnestly desire every County Superintendent, all members of Boards of Public Instruction, every teacher, and persons who contemplate teaching, and all earnest friends of our schools to be present, and enjoy the occasion and witness the grand opportunity afforded through the enterprise and liberality of the management of the Florida Chautauqua and the railroads and lines of steamers for the improvement of our school work.

This is the second session of the Florida Annual State Teachers' Institute, and will be the second meeting of the State Teachers' Association, and will therefore have a strong two-fold significance.

I desire specially to call attention to the prize offered of \$100 to the county who shall exhibit the best work from its schools, on occasion of the Teachers' Institute. It is probable that the county who shall take the prize will have it go to the school which shall present the best work according to the circumstances under which it shall exist and work, so that it may be possible for a plain country school to win the prize over a grammar or high school if their work shall be better for their circumstances than the work of the advance schools is for their circumstances, and thus the field for an honorable competition is open to all. Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Supt. Pub. Ins. Fla.

FEBRUARY 25, 1887.

At DeFuniak Springs on Wednesday morning the opening session of the Inter-State Teachers' Association was held. It was initiated by an address by Major Russell.

I was present at most of the Institutes and addressed the teachers upon the duties and responsibilities of their profession and work, and urged them to greater diligence and energy in a

proper equipment of themselves. I also addressed the people in reference to the public school system, pointing out the duties of patrons in seconding the efforts of earnest teachers, and have reason to think much good was accomplished.

I have also visited many of the schools in various counties, selecting schools frequently located in remote neighborhoods, in order that I might ascertain the condition and advantages of our schools situated away from lines of travel and contact with the centre's of population, and was agreeably surprised in the conduct of these schools, the solid attainments of the pupils, the earnest-hearted teacher and the pride of the people of their neighborhood school. While the people of Florida, may congratulate themselves upon their school system there are localities where great room exists for improvement, but I find the spirit and desire for improvement, present with all concerned.

The increase in the number of schools is very gratifying, also the increase in the number of teachers employed. New, neat and comfortable school houses have been built all over the State, new and modern improved sittings have been supplied.

Being aware of the condition and purpose of the Slater Fund, I applied for an appropriation, to Dr. A. G. Haygood, the General Agent, and in due time received the assurance that if the Industrial Arts could receive thorough attention in any one of the regularly organized and operated public schools of the State, an appropriation of one thousand dollars annually would be made to its aid. I at once wrote to the colored citizens of Jacksonville, where the largest and best equipped public school was located, (Dr. Haygood himself having visited that school and heartily approved it.) I called a public meeting for the purpose of considering the important matter, and on the day appointed I met and addressed them upon the subject of practical education, the education of the hand as well as the heart and head. Quite a large meeting was held,

and I appealed to them to at once, raise a fund of themselves, supplementing the amount of the Board of Public Instruction of the county. Building ready and teacher employed two hours each day, so appointed as not to conflict with their regular work, is devoted each school day, to this very important part of our school training, and the results are very satisfactory, as some of the work from this school, the handiwork of the boys and girls, on exhibition in the colored people's exhibit at the Sub-Tropical Exposition will show.

If the aid of the Slater Fund is continued, and as we trust increased, this school for *industrial training* will prove one of the great blessings of our public school system. I cannot refrain from expressing my thanks and admiration for the prompt and generous action of the County Board of Duval and the colored people of the city of Jacksonville in seconding my efforts to inaugurate the important feature of school work among the colored pupils.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE SLATER FUND.

In the month of December last, Dr. Atticus G. Haygood, the agent of the John F. Slater Fund, through the urgent solicitations of Major A. J. Russell, visited the Jacksonville Graded School, of this city, for the purpose of seeing whether he would be justified in recommending an appropriation from the Slater Fund for an industrial department to that school, and so highly pleased was he with the efficiency and good management of this school, and facilities afforded by the spacious grounds surrounding it, that he decided at once to secure appropriations from the Slater Fund for an industrial department, if the necessary shops could be erected.

Writing Principal William M. Artrell on the 6th of January, immediately on his return to Oxford he said: "Yours is the Florida school I prefer."

On Wednesday night last quite a number of leading colored citizens acting upon the suggestions of Major Russell, met in the Ebenezer Church for the purpose of considering the feasibility of raising money to assist in this laudable work, and the sum of \$525 was contributed by about forty persons, and a committee appointed to solicit further subscriptions. The approximate estimate for a suitable building, to be of brick, one story, 70 feet by 40 feet, as given by Major Russell, is to cost \$2,000. The colored citizens



HIGH SCHOOL, JACKSONVILLE, COLORED.

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are trying to raise as much of this amount as possible, depending upon the Board of Public Instruction to supply the balance. On Monday, the 14th inst., there will be another meeting in the Ebenezer Church, at 8 o'clock p. m., when Major Russell will address the colored citizens on this important matter. At that time it is hoped that those of the whites, who are in sympathy with this movement, will also be present. Prompt action is required in this matter in order to secure the necessary appropriations from the Slater Fund immediately, and if the erection of the shops can be secured, the Industrial Department will commence operation at the beginning of the next term of the school.—Times-Union.

LAKE WEIR CHAUTAUQUA, Feb. 14, 1897.

Hon. A. J. Russell, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Florida, will lecture on "The Demands of Education in our own Country." It is needless to say anything in commendation of Major Russell, for his popularity as a public speaker and earnest enthusiasm upon the subject of his lecture is well known.

APRIL 18, 1887.

EDUCATION IN FLORIDA.

The report of Hon. Albert J. Russell, State Supt. of Public Instruction for the year 1885 and 1886, is an important and instructive State paper. The showing made in relation to Educational progress, in Florida, is indeed gratifying. It would be a public misfortune, if the mental and moral development of the State should fail to keep pace with its growth in wealth and population; happily, such is not the case.

The advancement made during the last two years in our Public School System, is set forth by Major Russell in a very satisfactory and gratifying manner, and the increased appropriation for Public School purposes have had the desired effect of enlarging and increasing the efficiency of the system.

The Editorial closed thus:—

A very great proportion of the progress made in educational matters in Florida, is due to the zeal and efficiency of the State Superintendent. The people of the State have been indeed fortunate in selecting such a man as Major Russell for this important position.

From the report to the Commissioner of the Educational Department of the Interior, for 1887. Taken from State Supt. Russell's report:

"The growth and advancement made in the Public School System of the State is apparent, not only in the number of schools, the attendance of pupils, and interest on the part of the people everywhere, but also in the excellency of the work done and the increased efficiency of the teachers, coupled with a laudable ambition on their part to excell in everything that tends to make up a real teacher.

Much of this growth, advancement and efficiency, and excellent result is the outcome of the liberal provision made by the Legislature for the

support and maintenance of all the machinery of the system. The increase of the schools for 1886, is 415 schools, with an increased total attendance of 12,686 pupils. In February, 1886, there was assembled the first State Teacher's Institute, and the first Convention of County Superintendents ever held in the State. A State Teacher's Association was formed and regularly organized, and the beneficent influences of this State Institute, have been patent throughout the year.

THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

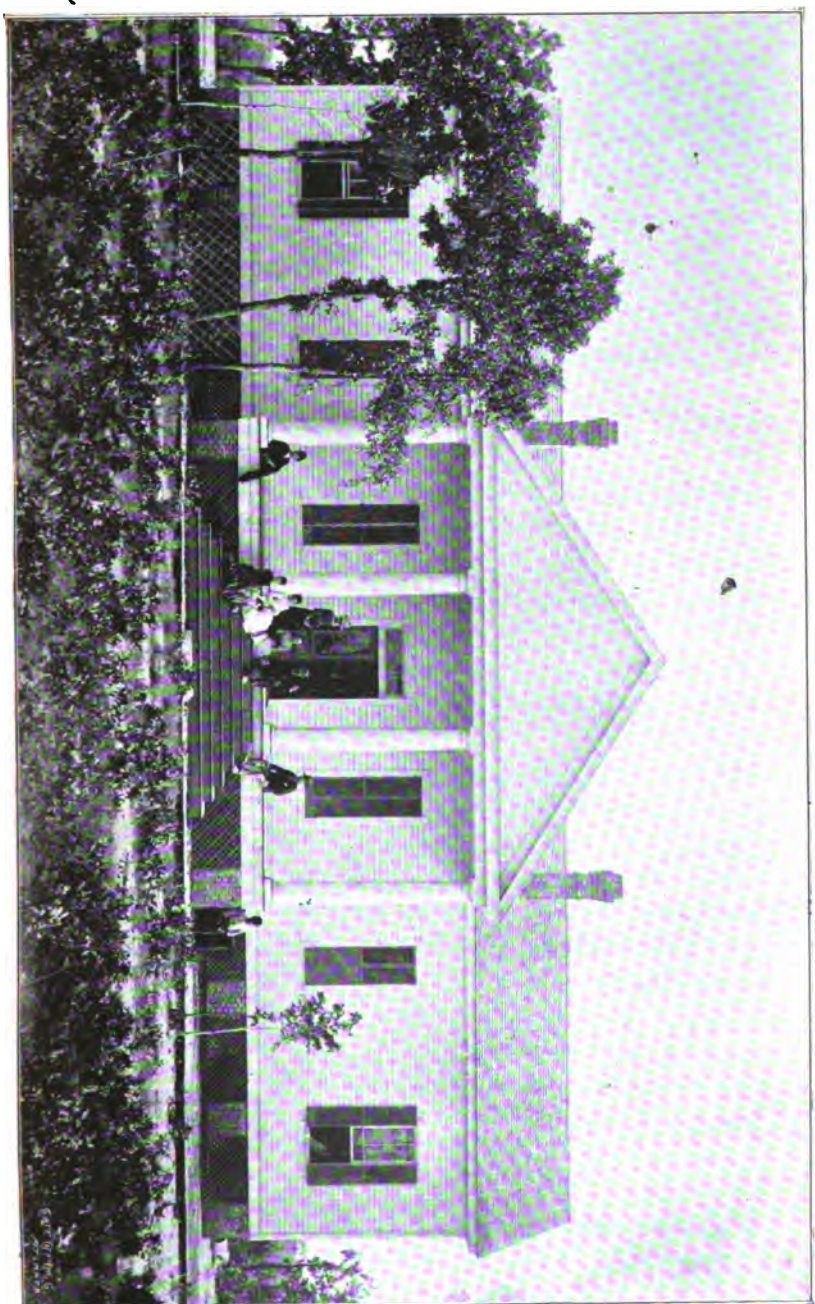
PROF. H. M. FELKEL.

The constitution of Florida of 1885, authorized the establishment of two Normal schools for the training of teachers, one for the white and one for the colored race. It is not too much to say that this constitutional provision owed its existence largely to the influence of Major Russell. The next legislature, in May, 1887, provided for the location and support of these schools. The one for white teachers was located at De Funiak Springs, in Walton county and is known as the State Normal College; the other is located at Tallahassee and is known as the State Normal and Industrial College.

Major Russell always took a lively interest in these institutions. He believed the best way to improve the work of our public schools was to provide for them well equipped teachers. He was not a man to despise the day of small things and therefore took great pride in the work the common schools were doing, but he was optimist enough to believe that far greater results would be achieved in the future, and one of the means he looked to as promising most in this direction was the Normal Colleges. Nor was he mistaken in this, for these institutions are beginning to make themselves felt throughout the State and the good they will accomplish cannot be measured by any known standard.

REPORT OF 1887.

The State Normal Colleges. The State Board of Education have been fortunate indeed in the selection of the faculties of



STATE NORMAL COLLEGE.

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these colleges. Prof. H. N. Felkel, President of the white Normal, is an earnest, proficient teacher, and has great pride in his work and is devoted to its success. Prof. T. De S. Tucker, President of the colored Normal school, located at Tallahassee, is admirably adapted to his work and well qualified. He understands the needs of his race in this work. A new building has been erected for the use of the colored Normal, a simple Grecian temple, cruciform in shape, having three distinct departments for study and recitation. A college building was furnished the white school at De Funiak.

FROM REPORT OF 1888.

The time is past when it is necessary for the officer in charge of the great interests of popular education to feel the necessity of either argument or persuasion, to induce the people generally to avail themselves of the inestimable privilege of the public schools. Illiteracy is being rapidly banished from the State, as the older freedmen and their coeval family connections pass out of life, and their children are receiving the benefits of the school, while the children of the white population, specially of the poorer laboring classes are very largely in attendance upon them. The number of schools are being increased from year to year, as the demand of our ever-increasing population requires, and our far-stretching forests and plains are giving way to homes of settlers, and being transformed into orange groves, fruit orchards, or waving fields of corn or fleecy lint and the tobacco plant. School trustees, parents, guardians and teachers join heartily with school officers in their efforts to improve methods in teaching, and in making the school room a place where not only the mind, but the heart and hands may be trained into practical, useful, and noble manhood and womanhood, training the mind, the affections and the muscles up into a full roundness.

Notwithstanding, all this may be truthfully said of our school work, there is much yet to be done in the line of development

we want better equipment, appliances, facilities in every school room. I am glad to note that many counties are awake to the importance of these essentials. Globes, wall maps, charts of various kinds, simple philosophical instruments for intellectual divertisement and practical illustration of lessons studied, are now supplied, and it may be fervently hoped that every school in the State, will before long, however humble or small the neighborhood, be thus supplied; then the crudest log house school room will in its interior be transformed into a place of profound interest and delight to every child, and many, many parents, will look upon new help in the new methods of training their children with approval and admiration. I feel I cannot too strongly urge the supply of these very necessary helps, from time to time as these means at their command will warrant, upon the Boards of Public Instruction and the County Superintendents of the various counties.

The State Normal College for the training of white teachers, though but in its second year, has enrolled sixty students, young men and women who are being prepared and trained to enter the school room as teachers of the children of the State, and are making great progress.

An academic course is also arranged for those in whose cases it may be necessary in order to qualify them to take the Normal course.

This course is designed to finish or complete such preparation as may have been received in other schools, and to supply whatever deficiencies there may be in the preparation of any student entering the college. Tuition in this college is entirely free.

The same may be said of the college for the training of colored teachers, except that the number of students in attendance has not been quite as large, fifty-two being enrolled. The same course of study, the same opportunity for academic instruction, indeed, it has been seen that there has been much

more need of this academic preparation for the colored pupils than for white. This it is hoped will be corrected by the work of this Normal school.

The State Teacher's Institute was held during the month of March, at De Funiak Springs, at which a large number of teachers were present and interchanged thought, query and experience relating to the work. Lectures upon special subjects by prominent teachers were delivered and were then opened for discussion by the Institute. A more earnest, diligent and enquiring company of teachers it has never been my privilege to see, and certainly the whole programme was voted as highly interesting, edifying and instructive.

Convention of Superintendents was called at the same time and place, as required by law, and though only seventeen counties were represented by their Superintendents, these found much to interest and instruct them, inspiring to some and encouraging to others.

I cannot close this report of 1888 without expressing my warm approval of those with whom I have only been a co-worker, the County Superintendents without exception, the Boards of Public Instruction, the teachers and the people have all heartily sustained me and for them all I cherish the highest sentiments of esteem and regard, and to your Excellency for the never-failing support, encouragement and sustenance you have given me.

A. J. RUSSELL,

State Superintendent Public Instruction.

FLORIDA STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

DE FUNIAK SPRINGS, }
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1888. }

Hon. A. J. Russell, State Superintendent, made the opening address. He set forth in eloquent terms the object of the Association, its benefits to the teachers and the duties of the teachers to join.

*"To our esteemed State Superintendent, Hon. A. J. Russell, who, by his persistent efforts previous to our meeting and his presence and kindly council at each session, has been to us a benediction. May God spare him many years to labor in the great cause of education in Florida."

Regulations prepared by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, adopted by the State Board of Education found at the close of the annual report for 1888 and each following report.

FROM REPORT OF 1888.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Hon. A. J. Russell published his report, and furnished the *Manufacturers' Record* of Baltimore a synopsis of its contents. He says that the interest in education in Florida is steadily growing, and the antebellum prejudice against the public school system has been eradicated.

"Certainly Florida is on the right track. Book-learning alone will not give our Southern youth all the education they need for their life work. We are at the opening of a period of great development that calls for the highest skill and intelligence. The men that can talk and write will not be in as great demand as the men who can do things and do them well. Handicraft, already largely in request at the South, will be called for more and more, and command rewards in proportion to its skill. Instead of what is sneeringly called "saw-buck carpenters," there must be joiners who understand all parts of their trade; there must be builders who can do something more than lay brick or rough plaster a wall, and so in every mechanical calling there must be men, and a great many of them, skilled and intelligent, to meet the South's coming needs. The training system which Florida has begun all other States might profitably adopt both for the good of their youth and to provide for the future of their commonwealths."

He shows that the increase of population of school age

*From the resolutions passed.

(between 6 and 21) as shown by the State census recently completed was 39,000. During the same time 848 new schools were established.

The one mill constitutional tax for educational purposes realized an increase of \$85,000, while \$17,000 were added to the permanent school fund from the proceeds of land sales. The Superintendent expresses gratification over the system of manual training employed in the public schools of Florida. It is, he says, greatly to Florida's credit that in her schools the eyes and hands are educated as well as the brains of her youth. Not only are mechanical tools and appliances furnished, and the boys taught to use them, but special pains are taken to impress upon their minds the importance and dignity of all honest labor. The system requires that this instruction be given at the normal colleges, where white and colored teachers are preparing for their work. While the boys are taught tool-craft, the girls receive instruction in practical work that will fit them for the duties of their after lives. A commodious building has been erected at the State College and named 'Mechanical Art Hall,' which is fully equipped, and every student is required to take his lessons regularly there. In the State's benevolent institutions for the blind and the deaf-mutes, instruction is given in such arts as their infirmities will permit.



CHAPTER VI.

REPORT OF 1889.

The continued interest, progress and improvement in the system of public instruction throughout the entire State is exceedingly gratifying and of brilliant promise for the future; indeed, it may be said that no other interest has a greater hold upon the appreciation of the people, nor are they less enthusiastic, notwithstanding the rapid and almost phenomenal growth of the system,, supplying the needs of the State in nearly every neighborhood, the effort is to increase the facilities, adopt the new and approved methods of imparting instruction and making the school room really attractive and winsome to the pupils. The school interests of the State are, really, now in the condition of the prudent and thrifty farmer's crop; the soil has been thoroughly prepared, the seed have been carefully and properly sown, the germs have sprung, so that to protect, guard and direct, the whole State must reap and gather a harvest for the grand future coming to it, of men and women, citizens better prepared and qualified for the questions of the future, and its duties and responsibilities, and discharge them with honor and blessing.

All along with this has grown also among the teachers a deep interest, *esprit du corps*, a laudable ambition to excel in their profession, and in the true character of the work done. The State Board and County Boards have advanced the grades of examination upon which is based the issuance of certificates to teachers, and the work of the school-room has been greatly

improved. The citizens of Florida have cause to congratulate themselves upon the condition and character of their school system.

The Legislature for 1889 refused to make the annual appropriation for Teachers' Institutes, which have been an item in the general appropriation bill since the term of office of my predecessor. Of course the State Superintendent could not hold and conduct institutes without the means with which to defray the expense of them. Notwithstanding this failure or refusal on the part of the Legislature to provide for them, so great was the appreciation of the people, school officers and teachers, that several of the counties held them. The State Teachers' Institute was held at DeFuniak Springs, March, 1889, which was largely attended, the teachers returned to their schools encouraged and with new thought, ambition and resolve.

MARCH 12, 1889.

Twenty Superintendents were present who held three sessions, during the first of which Hon. A. J. Russell presided. After making an address of welcome in which he thanked the Superintendents for their interest manifested in education by obeying his summons to this State gathering of the educational forces. Major Russell, by his wise suggestions and kindly counsel, showed himself a true friend of education.—*From Daily Paper.*

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, JUNE 6, 1889.

The presentation of the Polymathean prizes by Hon. A. J. Russell was happily performed.

His speech was short, but no one present remembers ever to have heard the Major (always eloquent) approximate the effort of last night.

He was especially happy and pleasing in his address.

FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF 1890.

I have great pleasure in reporting the continued increased interest in the public schools in every county in the State, as well as a steady advance in thoroughness and efficiency, a stricter requirement in the qualifications of the teachers, and in the attention given by county authorities to institutes for teachers, in which is evinced a splendid spirit looking to the

advancement of the standard of qualifications by the teachers themselves, with a view to the excellency of the profession and its work in the school-room. In addition to this is the universal increase and interest on the part of the people and parents and more frequent visitation and inquiry into the affairs of the school room, encouraging both teachers and pupils, and yet there is room for more of this very wholesome influence. It is hoped that very soon every parent and guardian will realize that it is a parental duty to look for themselves into the education of their children, and show by their anxious care the importance of the opportunity to them, and impress still more deeply the responsibility of the teacher in his important work.

It is my special pleasure to report that no less attention is given to the moral training of the pupils than the mental, by teachers and county school officers, while absolutely non-sectarian, the influence and precept tend to lead the mind of our youth to a knowledge and appreciation of their duty and responsibility to God, the Nation and the State, as well as to their fellow-man, and to realize the necessity of a high moral citizenship, as well as an intelligent one.

The number of schools has been still increased, notwithstanding it had appeared at the close of the preceding school year that the State, in most parts, had been fully supplied. There have been organized and operated forty-four new schools during the year, which have been supplied with new buildings, furniture and appliances, an increase of that number over the number operated last year.

It is a matter of deep interest and a cause for congratulation to witness the passing away of the crude old-time school house, and taking their places, the new and more comfortable better ventilated, lighted and pleasant school houses; the pupils are more thoroughly interested and excited to higher and nobler things, and the people of the districts have new sources of pride stimulated by the very pleasant innovation upon the past, and are more concerned and interested. It is a fact that

the school privileges are ample in Florida. The immigrant cannot make a home in the State now but that he will find the school house door open to his children, and in convenient distance, unless he should choose to settle in some unsurveyed part of the State, and even these are rapidly yielding to the increasing population.

NEGRO SCHOOLS.

I will take occasion to repeat in this what I said in my last report in explanation of the difference in the number of the schools :

The difference in the number of schools for white youth and the negro, as well as in the number of the negro teachers, is accounted for in the fact that the negroes have to a large extent left the rural districts and farms and are congregated in and around the cities, towns and villages, and in the fact also that in several of the counties there are not enough of them to make more than one school, and in two or three counties no school at all, and in the cities and towns they are gathered into large schools with several teachers, while the white are occupying the rural districts scattered all over the county and require many schools, though small in number of pupils.

County high schools are open to any pupil, from any part of the county, who can grade up to the lowest grade or class in the high school. Graded schools have multiplied all over the State.

State Normal College for white students, instituted in 1887 by an Act of the Legislature and maintained by annual appropriation, has proven a successful enterprise from the beginning. It has graduated two classes composed of both sexes, who have been eagerly sought for as teachers of public schools, and have proven quite successful in their work. The State has erected a comfortable and well adapted edifice delightfully located, and has, through the devotion and generosity of ex-Senator A. R. Jones, procured a commodious and well adapted dormitory

in which students can obtain board at a very low rate and under the best regulations and moral influence. The building being contiguous to both the college building and the residence of the President, brings the whole under his personal supervision and care. *

The college is furnished with a library of reference books and scientific apparatus and other requirements necessary. This school is doing an excellent work for the State, especially as it relates to her public school system in preparing our young men and women to enter our schools and engage in the work. They are acquainted with our conditions, rural and otherwise, and are prepared to adapt themselves to them and work more heartily and sympathetically for improvement, while the stranger coming from other States which are older and better prepared for the work, in some respects, are sure to feel that it is a hardship to endure our country work and always seek employment in the cities, towns or villages, of the State. What the State needs now, most, is an army of teachers—young men and women to the manor born, acquainted with our necessities, crudities, if you please, in some local features, well and thoroughly qualified for the work. This school is nobly doing this very thing for the State.

Colored Normal School located at Tallahassee, Major Russell writes as follows: Since the interest and peculiar features of this school, particularly from a social point of view, are of especial interest. I have requested its President to write at length upon its condition, its progress, the work done, the reflex influence upon the public schools for negro children, and especially in reference to industrial and manual training,

State Superintendent Major A. J. Russell, spoke at length on the subject of "Universal Education," and its importance in the working out the divine plan for the redemption of all the earth. He was, as usual, interesting, eloquent and instructive.

Governor Fleming was to have attended, but was prevented by sickness.

* See printed report.

The attendance of the school this year, your correspondent learns, has been unprecedentedly large, and the character of the work done, higher than ever before. The students are studious, and respectful—good examples of what education can do for the colored people.

Although I have not been able to hold and conduct Teachers Institutes as heretofore, because of the refusal of the Legislature to make the annual appropriation, yet many of the counties realizing and appreciating the great importance, benefit and usefulness of these schools for teachers, have, by dint of economy and determination, held them during the spring and summer months, and the children of the people have received the benefit.

Again I am under many obligations to your Excellency for the warm and hearty sympathy you have given to me in the discharge of my constantly increasing work, as well as the deep, unfeigned interest you have shown in its results and progress. I am gratefully pleased to report the complete harmony prevailing throughout the entire system, specially as to the county and State school authorities. Our system is excellent and I know of no change in the present law that I would suggest.

FROM CIRCULAR LETTER, W. DE MILLY, SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION,

Notwithstanding the action of the last Legislature in cutting off the appropriation for the support of institutes, State Superintendent A. J. Russell, ever working for the best good of the teachers and schools, has called the State Teachers' Institute to convene at Ocala, March, 5-8, 1890.

In the official Department of the "Florida School Journal," for December, Major Russell says:

"The State Superintendent cordially invites, and earnestly solicits the attendance of every County Superintendent, every member of the County Boards of Public Instruction and every School Supervisor to be present.

These meetings are absolutely necessary to our work, our success, and the interests of the people and their children.

I deeply regret that the Legislature saw fit to refuse to

make any appropriation for the Teachers' Institute, at its last session and to remove the clause from the school law, which provided that teachers should suffer no reduction of salary while attending Teachers' Institutes, but I trust the teachers as well as school officers are so much interested in their work and the great cause in which they are engaged, that they will be ready and willing to make the sacrifice of money and time to attend this important assembly of teachers, and gather from each other such experience and wisdom as each may bring from his or her own peculiar field of work, and by comparison, reap a store of good things for future use. Come all and let us have a good time, one that shall be profitable in the school-room."

On Saturday, the closing day of the session, the school children of Marion and adjoining counties will come in, 5,000 strong, when a grand parade will take place, terminating with an assembly at the Semi-Tropical building where Superintendent Russell will be given the great inspiration of his life, and we shall have the crowning speech of all.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

TAMPA, FLA. Feb. 10, 1891.

At a business meeting of the association, Major Russell was called upon and made a short address, full of pathos and humor. He said: "No company that I would be called to face has a stronger relation to the welfare and prosperity of the State than the body before me. You have before you the work of impressing the minds and consciences of your pupils with everlasting impressions for good or evil. Your work is not appreciated as it should be. If there is one deficient spot in the boasted civilization of our country it is a want of proper appreciation of your arduous and responsible work. As I came down last night I stopped at that Venice of Florida, better known as B. An old man came up to me and said: 'See here, you're not doing us justice?' 'Why, how's that?' 'Why, sir, you've sent an old woman here to teach our boys and gals!' 'Getaway, get away, man.' I said. 'If you'd

had a woman to teach you, your breath wouldn't smell so strong." The soul that is enlightened by your work goes out into new paths of life touching all about it, its influence ever widening and increasing, never stopping until it banks up mountain high against the throne of God! Are you true teachers? Are you using your position as a temporary stepping stone to something else? If you are, I beg you for the sake of the dear children you teach, to resign your position at once and make way for some one else. I appreciate your work and assure you of my hearty co-operation." Major Russell was applauded to the echo as he closed.

Wednesday evening, after a day of arduous work, every teacher in the city and hundreds of citizens assembled at the "gospel tent" to hear the annual address of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Albert J. Russell. Every seat was filled long before the hour arrived for the delivery of the address. Major Russell spoke in his happiest vein, his subject being "State Education." It was an address worthy the man, beautiful in diction, deep in thought and replete with wise suggestions and pointed truth. Major Russell is one of Florida's most eloquent and gifted sons and is held in high esteem by the teachers all over the State. His address was diversified with humorous illustrations.—*Tampa Tribune*.

He said: "The true value of the teacher's work is its stupendous results. You will not know until you cross the river, which looks so dark to us all, and so wide and turbulent, but which to the faithful will be lighted and calmed by the affluence of the glorious radiance of Him who has redeemed us, not until you shall be safe on the other side shall you begin to know. The work of the true, earnest teacher in its results will never stop until it banks up against the throne of God, there to be garnered forever more, seeds of joy and happiness planted in the heart by loving hands which will bloom eternally."

Major Russell bade the teachers a fond farewell. He pro-

nounced this session of the association the best ever held, and said that he could compliment this old city of Tampa as the cause of the large attendance, but not wholly so, for he felt that during the year there had been a great increase of interest, and advancement among the teachers and a laudable ambition to accomplish greater things. "The largest number of teachers are present than it has ever been my pleasure to address in Florida, and I hope you will carry from this association some rich nuggets that will help you in your work. Nothing but the unfolding book of Eternity can ever tell the good you have done in your *faithful* work. Spirits sweeping through the universe of God, will pass yours and smile in the radiance of Heaven in recognition of the blessing you were to them on the earth."

Dr. Amos Kellogg, *Times-Union* 1891 :

"At the head of the system, there is the same enthusiastic man there was in 1887. Major Russell has never lost heart amid all the depressing circumstances that have hedged in the development of the public school system here. He has labored to inspire his assistant officials with his spirit to increase the amount to be paid to the teachers, to place better teachers in charge of the school-rooms. He lives to see his labors partially crowned with success, and to see the appearance of a complete fulfillment of his plans."

STATE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

TAMPA, FLA., March 11, 1891.

Major Russell is speaking to night to an immense crowd inside the tent and an overflow meeting outside of it.—*Times-Union*.

Major Russell was present and received hearty welcome from all. The warm affection which all the teachers of Florida feel for their State Superintendent, is a genuine tribute of his efficiency and worth.

If Superintendent Russell does not go down to his grave "As the silver tongued orator of Florida," he can well stand forever as the teachers friend, and all the teachers know it.—*Florida State Journal*, April, 1891.

AT FERNANDINA APRIL 12, 1892.

Major Russell went to deliver the address at the *Laying* of the corner

stone of the Court-House. Upon the arrival of the 11 a. m. train he went directly to the public school, he never lost an *opportunity to address the schools*. The Principal assembled the teachers and pupils of the different departments. After an introduction by Professor Anderson, Major Russell proceeded to address his youthful audience in his usual pleasing manner. He related in touching and eloquent language several incidents which transpired when a young man just starting out in life; the erroneous ideas he had conceived in regard to the management of children; of the failure of his methods to accomplish the end in view; of taking his troubles to God and seeking His direction, and, to his great delight and satisfaction, of his immediate success. He spoke of his love for little children and of their, grand possibilities if properly trained and instructed; of the great responsibility resting upon teachers and parents. Such an address not only entertains, but is highly edifying.

Limited time forbade a more prolonged visit.

Major Russell as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has done much to advance the educational interests of Florida.—*The Fernandina News*.

COLUMBUS DAY.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT RUSSELL SUGGESTS A SCHOOL CELEBRATION IN FLORIDA.

The following circular letter bearing date, April 5, has just been mailed by Superintendent Russell to each of the County Superintendents of Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR—It is thought to be entirely appropriate and eminently educational that the public schools of the county celebrate in some way the discovery of America by Columbus 1492. Indeed, an effort is being made to make it a "National Columbian Celebration." As the day occurs so soon after the regular period for the opening of the schools of Florida, I have thought it might be well to call the attention of the school officers to it at this time, so that arrangements may be made for it now, and pupils be assigned to certain parts to be taken in the celebration. The program of exercise should consist of recitations, declamations and readings, all pertaining to developing all the historical occurrences connected with Columbus and his voyages of discovery, while other parts may point to its results upon this nation and the others of the world and upon science and literature. This interspersed with appropriate music and songs. Prominent among the latter the doxology of "Praise to God."

Preparations for such a celebration will be highly instructive and calculated to promote love of country and excite patriotic pride and feeling in the minds and hearts of the children of Florida.

It is expected that all State institutions, private schools, and colleges will join in this celebration on Wednesday, October 12, 1892.

Would not this be an auspicious occasion for the pupils, teachers and

patrons to make a small offering for the fund to defray the expenses of our educational exhibit at Chicago during the Columbian Exposition?

Appended to the circular is the following:

"I heartily approve the above recommendation.

F. P. FLEMING, Governor."

REPORT FOR 1891.

Continued success and advance characterize the public schools of the state in every county. The people are alive to the importance of the work, and properly value the privileges and opportunities afforded and are using them to the greatest advantage.

The number of schools increased fifteen during the year. It is difficult to state or calculate the result of this work if faithful prosecuted upon the intelligence, virtue and refinement of the people in succeeding generations. One thing is beyond doubt or cavil, there is now no reason why the children of to-day *every one*; may not receive sufficient education as to make them intelligent citizens, capable of appreciating good government and lovers of order and peace; for the very poorest have the school house near their door, without price, and the opportunity is extended to the higher branches of learning, equally free and without price. School officers and teachers warmly seconded by the people. have resolved that ignorance and illiteracy shall be driven from our borders, and virtue, intelligence and good order reign instead.

FLORIDA TEACHERS

MEET IN ANNUAL CONVENTION IN JACKSONVILLE.

Hon. A. J. Russell was presented by President J. M. Stuart. We have with us a distinguished citizen, but for whose efforts this State Teachers' Association would not now have an existence. He needs no introduction to this audience. In every town and settlement of Florida where the cause of popular education has had to struggle to maintain its footing, in the hundreds of prosperous

public schools which have sprung into being under the beneficent touch of his administration, in the history of every educational body of note that has assembled within our borders during the past eight years, the name of Albert J. Russell is known and honored.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Florida's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Major A. J. Russell" (Applause.)

A response on behalf of the State at large was made by Major A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Instruction.

Major Russell's remarks were, as usual, eloquent. Said he:

"It is my duty to tell this body of men and women and through them to the people of Jacksonville the thanks for the generous hospitality of the city of Jacksonville. We have watched with admiration the growth of this enterprising city which has been covered in the past by the dark wings of pestilence with the angel of death fleeting to and fro. We have watched the red tongues of a great conflagration and we have seen her lift her eyes to God and buckling on her sword fight on with courage. With pluck you are now endeavoring to make a great city of commerce with a channel through your river to the sea. From all parts of the State there has been a desire to come and see this city, so capable, so plucky and so full of energy. We come to meet together to consult on what is best to do to achieve victories of enlightenment. We have inspirations that other professions do not enjoy. It is absolutely essential in our country that the cause of education be fostered. It is at times astounding to see what objections are raised to our free school system. It was education that relegated the iron tyrants like Bismarck to the antiquated times to which they belonged. If these things can be done in the old country with its antique sentiments, what cannot be accomplished in this new land with its youth and energy? Some of us live in the wilderness of forest, remote from railways, and if they are not here they will be to-morrow. Some of them after

their work go to sleep in houses through which they can observe the stars even if they do not study astronomy, and some of these perform their ablutions by the well in a tin basin. They are planted in the centers of ignorance and are beginning to to light up the minds of the little piney woods boys and girls of Florida. Our system is a great one, interwoven with the institutions of the country, and has produced some of our grandest men. Behold Garfield, by the result of his own energy and mind ascend to the greatest office in the gift of the people of these United States."

Major Russell paid an eloquent tribute to the name "cracker." He said the cracker was true to his principle and never blanchd or flinched, even before the cannon's mouth. He has been an ignorant man always, because prior to 1868 there were no public schools in these States. He said the cracker was ambitious that his children should learn and that they were learning all over the State, and would grow up with privileges their parents had never known. "Tell me if I am not right when I say that no party should dare to take this system from these people. We have a public school in operation for every 174 of the population of this State. Has not your faithful work been fruitful of blessings for the State of Florida?"

Major Russell then went on to advise the teachers to express freely in the convention all these points wherein they thought themselves weak in teaching, in order that the experience of others might be gained. He was warmly applauded all through his remarks.

MUSIC IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

MRS. G. S. VAN BUSIRK.

Major Russell, in commenting on the paper eulogized the cause and indorsed most earnestly the sentiments that the advocate for music had expressed. He said that while he knew

nothing about tunes still he always sung and always appreciated his own singing. He looked at the matter in a patriotic light and said that there was much more inspiration in song than in words.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

JANUARY 9, 1892.

Major Russell made a few closing remarks to the teachers, after which the general resolutions were read, among the list:

Resolved, That our honored State Superintendent, Major A. J. Russell, at this session, by his able address, many apt speeches and remarks and his general bearing in our midst has greatly contributed to our enjoyment and instruction and that with profound feelings of pride we review his work as our official head; for from a chaotic state he has given us a well organized system of public tuition and carried it to such a degree of perfection that Florida stands among the foremost in educational work.

REPORT OF 1892.

The work of the Public Schools of the State has progressed with unabated zeal and with excellent results in every county in the State. Great improvement has been made in the course of study pursued in the counties. The teaching ability in the State has been greatly increased, the people cherish the school as a great blessing, and the youth of the State of school age have been largely gathered into the school rooms, while these have been more completely supplied with all the facilities and aids that are found in the best equipped schools. While this is not the case in every school, it is largely so; and the desire has been awakened in all to have their schools thus fully equipped, and this means it will be speedily done. An earnest desire for excellence and success pervades the entire corps of teachers of the State. Even the humblest have caught the inspiration and are hard at work and study, seizing upon every opportunity for advancement. There are very few, if any, who know it all, but instead a teachable, inquiring, investigating spirit is the universal rule.

The vast work of public education is done at a moderate

cost to the people, and is largely less in cost to the taxpayer than if he was compelled to educate his children in a private school, and at the same time affords him better results. It is painful to one who knows better, to hear the demagogue on the platform and stump declaiming in hypocritic sympathy with what he describes as the oppressed and down-trodden people. The State, by the organic law, levies a tax of one mill on all real and personal property. The same Constitution commands each county to levy and collect a county school tax, not less than three mills nor more than five mills. Between these limits it is optional with the people of each county *to levy their own tax* for school purposes, through the County Boards of Public Instruction and County Commissioners. Now to arrive at the true sentiment of the taxpayers themselves, with reference to the public schools, we will examine and ascertain how they have taxed themselves between the constitutional limits. Out of the forty-five counties of the State there are sixteen which taxed themselves up to the maximum limit, (five mills); there are six counties which levy $4\frac{1}{2}$ mills; there are eleven which tax themselves 4 mills, and seven counties $3\frac{1}{2}$ mills. There are only five counties who are content with the minimum (3 mills). Thus is spoken in unmistakable terms the will of the people in reference to the maintenance and improvement of their schools by their taxes. Add the 1-mill tax of the State to those several levies and you have the cost of the schools to the people.

GRADED SCHOOLS.

The Graded Schools have largely increased during the last four years, and are generally of eight grades, requiring a year to each grade, turning the pupil out at the age of fourteen years with a full common school education, fitting him to learn and follow any of the trades or ordinary mercantile business profitably, and with honor to themselves. Your Excellency will note that the charge of cramming, frequently

urged against the Public School, cannot be laid at the door of the Public Schools of Florida, since in the grading of the schools eight years are required for the common school course.

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

The law provides for the establishment of county High Schools, one or more in each county, as the density of population may require. These county High Schools are to be located at the county site, or other centres, making them more available to the youth of the whole county, and are being opened without charge to all the youth of the county who grade properly from the local common school, and are prepared to begin with the "A" class in the High School. Thus is afforded an opportunity to every parent, whether poor or rich, if they intend to furnish their children an education up to and through the High School course, at home; in their own county, under their own observation, without the expense attending the necessity to send them out of the State, or to a private institution. Excellent results have been obtained from these wherever located. The counties in which these schools are located have been supplied with some of their best teachers from these schools. Some of the best and most successful business and professional young men of the State are those who have graduated from them. In addition to the course they have only taken special instructions for the work selected as their respective vocations.

Some persons, evidently desirous of creating sensation by appealing to prejudice, are frequently referring to the supposed immense amount of money expended for the cities and towns to the detriment of the country, when, in fact, while there are operated 2,368 Public Schools in the State there are not more than 17 High Schools and 90 Graded Schools in the cities and large towns, in all 107 schools in the cities, leaving 2,261 schools in the rural districts of the State.

It has been the duty and recognized pleasure of this office, from the platform, in circular letters of instruction, in the school

room and in the meetings of the Boards of Public Instructions throughout the State, to urge and enjoin upon all concerned, not to neglect, but to look well to the interests of the country schools. The law requires the Boards of Public Instruction to locate and maintain Public Schools in every locality in the county over which they preside, where they may be needed to accommodate, as far as practicable, all the youth, between the ages of six and twenty-one years, during not less than four months in each year." That this has been faithfully done the statistics compiled from the annual reports of the County Superintendents clearly show.

In the cities and towns there are congregated large numbers of school youth of both races in most cases, and in order to properly accommodate them great numbers of schools, of sittings, and of appliances are required and cannot be dispensed with, and the statement cannot be sustained as truth that the schools of cities are largely provided for at the expense or detriment of the country schools, but there are no city or town schools recognized in the school law of this State. All are county schools; that by the side of the remotest forest and that in the metropolitan centre. Each county constitutes of itself a school district, and is presided over by a Board of Public Instruction and a County Superintendent. The same law, rules and regulations control and provide for all.

STATE NORMAL FOR WHITE STUDENTS,

The State Normal College for white students, President, Prof. H. N. Felkel, is located at DeFuniak Springs, Walton county. This fine and very necessary school is provided for by the Constitution of the State 1885, and the constitutional requirement put into effect by the Legislature of 1887, and annual appropriations are made for its maintainance. Its course of study is technical, leading to pedagogy, or the art of teaching or imparting instruction. Its course is two years. It has a commodious college building, a president's residence and a

dormitory. Tuition is free, and living very moderate. It is well attended and many good teachers have been sent from its ranks and are at work in the various counties in the State, and giving satisfaction to patrons of schools.

THE FLORIDA NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE FOR NEGRO STUDENTS.

This very fine and eminently useful school for negro students is located near Tallahassee on a beautiful site, Prof. T. De S. Tucker, President.

This fine school is maintained largely by a special appropriation made by the Congress of the United States, under what is known as the Morrill Bill, appropriations also made by each Legislature to meet such requirements as the congressional fund is not allowed to be used for.

The old dwelling house, large and commodious, is used as the college building, the rooms are large and well lighted and are very well adapted to study and recitations.

A commodious workshop and laboratory building afford rooms for industrial training in mechanic arts, and in science, chiefly as it applies to agriculture, stock and cattle. A dormitory affords opportunity for cheap living. Practical education is the motto of this school, and work in the shops and in the field and garden is participated in by all, while the females are at work in the dairy and such other work as is best adapted to their sex.

The attendance is good, the conduct of students very good, altogether this school for the negro race gives promise of much good both to the students and ultimately to the State.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

This important body of men and women, the teachers of the State, met in the city of Jacksonville in the first week in January this year, and assembled in the Park Opera House, 1014 being present, and I do not think a finer looking or

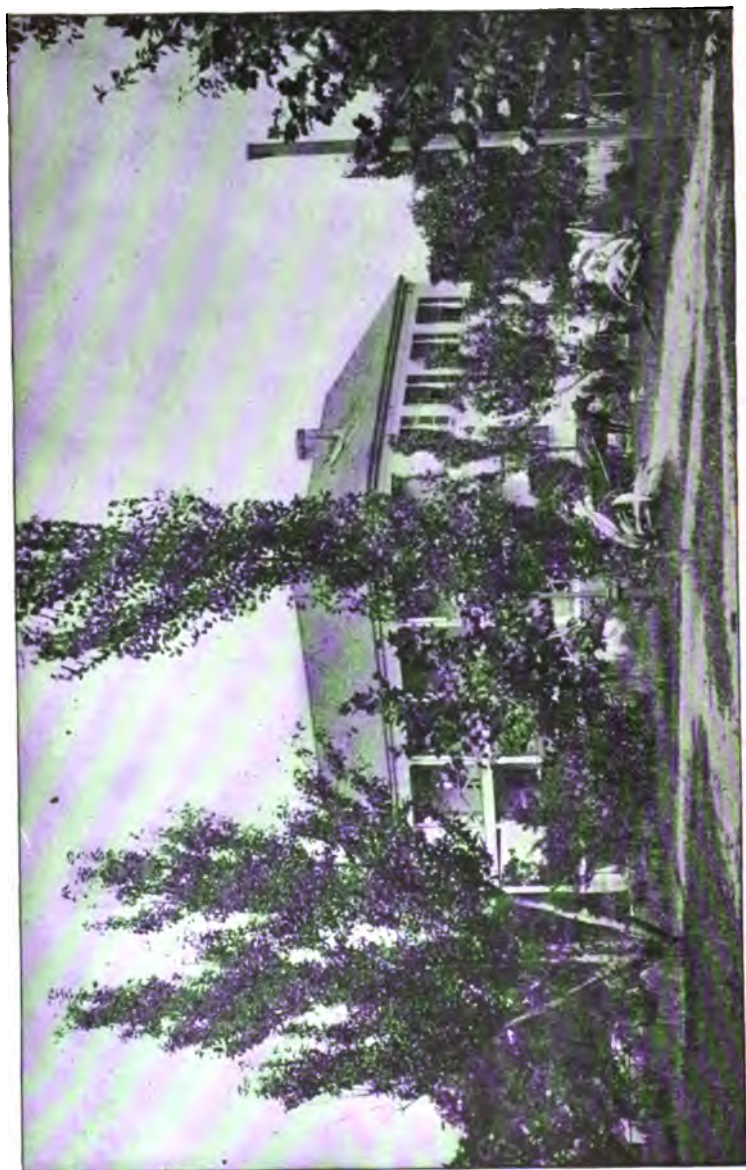
more earnest company of men and women engaged in the great work of education ever assembled in any State in the Union.

The papers read were admirable, full of truth and adapted to the work in Florida. It is a fact that Florida is unique among the great sisterhood of States of which she is a member and she is no less unique in her educational needs, peculiarities and circumstances, than in her geography, climate, varied population, and, if you please, her idiosyncrasies. So much so is she that the same plans, regulations, ventilations of school houses, hours of school, length of school year, adapted to most of the other States would utterly fail in Florida. All these interests are considered, conversed upon by the teachers and discussed and thus the whole body of teachers in attendance become better acquainted with their work in hand and return to it better prepared to execute it.

This is my last report of a long term of years in the educational work of my beloved State; for nine years my head and heart have been charged with this arduous and responsible, but to me delightful, work. I have had the great reward to see and feel its wonderful growth and development. From a very poor state of organization and life, I have been permitted to aid in its development to thrice itself in numbers; in popularity with the people; in the melting away of prejudice: in the hearty support given it by the people, to an extent unexceeded by the people in any State. Almost perfect peace and harmony have prevailed, and an earnest desire to excel. A truer and more earnest body of men and women as teachers have never worked under the superintendency of any man, or, in the main, have been better qualified. I have the indestructible pleasure of turning over to my successor a Public School system equal to any in the South, and to many of the States older in the establishment and work of the Public Schools. In and for all this I give the praise to Him upon

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NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE, (COLORED).

whom I have always called for help in the great work committed to me.

I cannot refrain from thus publicly expressing my unfeigned gratitude to all county officers, and the teachers, my special friends, for their hearty co-operation and willing efforts to upbuild the work in hand.

To Your Excellency, I am constrained again to express my thanks for your uniform sympathy and cheerful co-operation with me in all my efforts, and your abiding interest so manifest throughout your administration. For detailed information, statistical, financial and otherwise, I respectfully refer you to the tables at the close. (The following pages), which compared with those of 1888, will show you the great growth, materially and in every other respect, during your administration now expiring.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL,

State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

TRIBUTE.

(T. Des Tucker., Pres.)

THE STATE NORMAL INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE FOR COLORED STUDENTS.

This institution, created by an act of the Legislature, founded on a constitutional requirement, opened its first session on the fifth day of October, 1887.

To the Hon. Albert J. Russell, then Superintendent of Public Instruction, was assigned the duty of carrying into effect the sovereign will of the people in starting the school on its mission of good.

Although the contract for the construction of the building which was to serve as the domicile of the institution was given out at a time quite near to the opening day, the energy and well directed zeal of the Superintendent pushed on the work

so rapidly that the faculty were inducted into their duties in the new structure, with a loss of only one day.

Out of twenty-five applicants for admission, fifteen were passed to begin the course of study. The President and his assistant were then the only working force; later on in the session a female principal was secured to take charge of the Academic Department, and the work was thus divided, to the manifest promotion of good scholarship. For the increasing numbers bringing with them more demands for enlarged facilities to accommodate students from localities outside of Tallahassee, Major Russell rented two cottages on College Hill for this purpose.

The increasing needs of the school disclosed the painful fact that the Legislative yearly appropriation was far from adequate to meet the running expenses.

Negro education in general, and especially the higher type of it for which the school was in evidence, was at the time grudgingly conceded, and with many it was even deemed one of the unholy relics of the "late unpleasantness," and a thing most greivous to be borne. Generous and kind as the State Board of Education always sought to do its duty in the face of often fierce criticism, they were often at their wits' end to know just what to do for the school, but in all these trying periods Major Russell's interest and energy never flagged; harsh epithets and unkind motives imputed to him seemed only to stimulate him to better directed efforts to promote the welfare of the school.

He was ever ready and fertile in expedients to secure from the Board whatever means were possible to accelerate the work, and but for his happy, genial and diplomatic nature in obtaining success from opposition, the institution might have been dwarfed into a mere name.

The darkest hour of the school's struggle for life was in 1889-90. It had literally outgrown the facilities at its command. Students were constantly applying from nearly every

part of the State for room accommodation, for work to enable them to pay expenses, and only a pitiful wail of weakness could be sent in return. Two members of the faculty, at different times, went North to appeal to philanthropists for help; the disheartening reply commonly was that they would not give to a State school; that a sovereign State should be able to support its own institutions, and much more to the same effect.

When the last ray of hope to obtain means to meet our necessities seemed to have flickered out of sight, and our big-hearted and resourceful Superintendent was about to succumb with the faculty to the decree of a cruel fate, Congress passed an act, named after the author of it in the Senate, the Morrill Bill, appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars to each State, in furtherance of industrial education.

The State Legislature, by the suggestion of the Governor at the time, Governor Fleming, designated the Normal School as the institution to receive the portion of the above fund due the colored race. The State Superintendent shared fully with the school the enjoyment at this happy stroke of fortune. Having been thus, in a measure, placed on a good financial footing, the school was, under the direction of the Superintendent, removed from its original location in the city to the present commanding site now occupied. Soon thereafter Governor Fleming purchased twenty acres square and the manor house, the territorial mansion of Florida, for the present and permanent habitat of the school.

To meet the conditions imposed by the Congressional appropriation, Major Russell had the necessary buildings prepared—a boys' hall and a hall for mechanical instruction.

His practical knowledge of machinery was employed to the advantage of the school in placing orders for tools, engines and other appliances with the best houses in the country. As a result the mechanical plant of the school is, perhaps, for its size the most complete in all respects in the State, and, no doubt, one of the best in the Gulf States.

By his persevering care and attention he aided largely in placing the school, in many of its prominent features, on a sound footing before the close of his official tenure.

His farewell meeting with the school has left an imperishable landmark in the history of it. The tender scenes of affectionate regard for the official in his long devotion to the welfare of the young institution, as well as veneration for the man in his unselfish life for the good of others, will remain undiminished in memory to the end of life with all that were present on the occasion.

He bore away with him from the seat of his official labors and cares the tender and lasting endearment of the Faculty and students of the Florida State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students.

*Major Russell, we greet you with hearts filled with a feeling mingled both with joy and sadness. Joy because we are favored with your presence and words of wisdom, sadness because we are reminded that soon your relationship with us as Superintendent of the State is to be severed.

As the end of your term is fast approaching, we, the students, together with the teachers of this State Normal and Industrial College, mourn the loss of not only a true citizen of the State, but one who has taken all interest in our school from its infancy through a period of five years, and we deem it a great pleasure, as well as our indispensable duty, to offer to you this book of all books as a token of our gratitude for your never ceasing efforts in helping us to enter the vast field of education. Accept this slight token of our sincere gratitude for your labors in behalf of this institution, and may it be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your pathway, and may the God of Heaven go with you and crown you with success.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 23. 1892.

At the colored State Teachers' Association held in Jacksonville, Prof. Tucker delivered a message from Hon. A. J. Russell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, expressing his regrets at not being able to be present. The following telegram was sent :

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., June 24, 1891.

Hon. A. J. Russell, Tallahassee, Fla.:

The Colored State Teachers' Association, in convention assembled,

*On a card found in the Bible presented to Major A. J. Russell by the students of the State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students are these words.

learned with profound regret, through President T. D. Tucker, of your inability to be present, and unanimously join in expressions of good will to you.

D. W. GILLISLEE,
L. W. LIVINGSTON,
M. JOHNSON,
Committee.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL,

(FOR FLORIDA HOME AND GARDEN.)

Florida is well supplied with public schools and State schools of higher grade, and is justly proud of her school system.

The school census taken in 1892, accurately places her school population, youth between the ages of six and twenty-one years. at 144,106; of these 79,719 are white, and 64,387 are negro. The number of schools operated is 2,368, and the number of teachers employed is 2,782; the number of schools for white youth is 1,774, and the number for negro youth is 594. The expense of these schools is provided for in an invested fund, proceeds of the sales of school lands, amounting to \$500,200, bearing interest at the rate of 6 or 7 per cent., a constitutional State tax upon all real and personal property of one mill and a county tax of not less than three mills or more than five.

There are now operated one public school to every 174 of the entire population of the State, and as free of cost to parents as the air which they breathe. Besides these common schools there are nineteen high schools, two seminaries, a State literary, agricultural, and industrial college, a normal college for the preparation of white teachers, and a normal and industrial college for the preparation of negro teachers, an institute for the education of the blind and deaf-mutes of the State, as a supplement to the public schools for seeing youth. In this institution trades, music and the minor arts are taught both sexes as their sex demands.

All of these are open free of all charge for tuition to the youth of the State and are appreciated and used.

Thus it will be seen that Florida has provided for all the demands which so immovably rest upon the American people for an intelligent citizenship, and her schools and system of public instruction is now so interwoven into the very genius of her government and ambition that no party or church dare attempt its overthrow or diminution.

Immigrants and home-seekers coming to our land of fruits, flowers and unique products, may rest assured that the school-door is open to their children, which certainly lifts a great care from off the heart of every stranger in a strange land. And Florida cordially invites citizens from all States of our broad Union to come and find a hearty welcome to privileges equalling those left behind in former homes.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT.

A TOKEN OF ESTEEM BY THE TEACHERS OF FLORIDA FOR THEIR LATE SUPER-
INTENDENT, HON. A. J. RUSSELL.

January 3, 1893.

Major A. J. Russell, late State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Florida, was on Monday last the recipient of a beautiful token of esteem in which he is held by teachers throughout the State, which he has led, so to speak, for nine years in the march of great progress of our educational system in this State. The incident was a touching one, but it is only a tangible expression of the regard in which he is held, and the love felt for him among the educators of our children.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, in the presence of Governor Fleming, the Cabinet Officers, and the Supreme Court officials, Prof. J. M. Stuart, of Lake City Agricultural College, on behalf of the State Teachers' Association, presented him with a salver of solid silver, 12x20 inches. In the center of the salver is this inscription :

This waiter and contents are presented to Hon. Albert J. Russell by the teachers of Florida in recognition of the inestimable service rendered by him in behalf of education in this commonwealth, and as a testimonial of the high esteem in which he is held by them.

James M. Stuart,
Helen K. Ingram,
Lena B. Mathes,

John P. Patterson,
Henry Noel Felkel, Committee.
W. F. Yocum.

December 30, 1892.

Surrounding the inscription was placed a circle of \$10 gold coins.

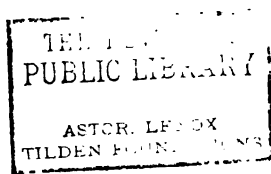
Professor Stuart in making the presentation spoke as follows :

Governor Fleming and Gentlemen :

The State Teachers' Association of Florida have commissioned me to perform, in your presence, a very pleasant duty. For nine years, under three successive administrations, the teachers and school officers of Florida have looked to one of your number as the head of our educational system. For nine years they have watched that system expand and develop under his administration until it has become the peer of any in the South ; and if I may be permitted to borrow a well-worn figure, they have marched under his command so long that they have come to regard him with that respect and devo-



SILVER WAITER.



tion which continued and successful leadership always inspires. I do not think it an exaggeration to say that among the rank and file of that educational army, which his genius and energy has created and organized, the name of Albert J. Russell is mentioned with feelings of reverence and affection akin to those emotions which stirred the bosoms of the veterans of that historic army which cheered and wept when the name of Robert E. Lee was passed along the line.

In view of these facts it was suggested by our Teacher's Journal, some two months ago, that the teachers of the State should contribute to some testimonial to be presented to Major Russell on the eve of his retirement from office, which he has filled so long and well. The suggestion was quickly caught and acted upon by almost every town and county in the State. Even the colored teachers asked to be allowed to join their white brethren in this expression of esteem for the man to whom they have looked to for so many years, for assistance and co-operation in every worthy enterprise they have undertaken. Many, the memory of some eloquent word of sympathy, or of some substantial help offered in time of need, stirred so deeply that they were constrained to accompany their contributions with expressions of regret that they could do so little to honor one whose name had become a household word with them almost as the name of a loved and honored father. As treasurer of the Russell fund, as the teachers have chosen to call it, it now becomes my duty, Major Russell, to present you this testimonial, the inscription of which I will read.

In behalf of the committee, let me say sir, that the teachers commanded us to convert their contributions as near as possible into pure gold. They wish you to understand by this, sir, that nothing which is not of the very best and most enduring of things, can typify the estimation in which you are held by them. The wisest of men has said that "words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver." So may this

silver waiter with its golden fruitage commemorate the many words which you have so fitly, beautifully and courageously spoken for the cause of education and the cause of God, in the halls of legislation, in the cities, even in the piney woods of Florida.

In behalf of the State Teachers' Association, more than one thousand strong, let me say to you, sir, its halls and its homes will be ever ready to receive and entertain you as an honored guest. It sends you, through me, the benediction it has learned from your own lips: "May God bless and guide and prosper you," and when you shall stand in the glow of Eternity's morning may the Great Teacher deliver to you the silent message of this shining plate: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Major Russell, in accepting the salver, spoke in very feeling terms of his relations with the teachers and the children during the past nine years in which he had been Superintendent of Public Instruction. His remarks were very touching and moved all present. He goes out of office having the good wishes not only of the teachers and children and his immediate associates in office, but also of the entire people of the State, who will join the association in exclaiming: "Well done, thou faithful servant."

From a letter received from Professor Stuart:

I enclose an account of the presentation of the waiter, together with the presentation speech, which it was my pleasant duty as spokesman of the Teachers' Association to make. I shall ever regard the incident as one of the pleasantest and most satisfactory in my life, in so far as I knew that I was being permitted to do honor to a pure, noble minded, and beloved public servant, who had done for the commonwealth a work which, I believe, no other hands could have done. It also gave me a great deal of satisfaction to have seen so enthusiastic a response to a suggestion which I had first made to the editor of our School Journal—V. E. Orr, who after mentioning it to others, published the first public intimation of the plan which was adopted of having all the teachers unite in contributing to the "Russell fund," as it was soon called.

Major Russell and I became well known to each other in 1885 and from

that time, till only a few months before his death, we corresponded with some regularity. During the last year or two of his term of office, while I was professor of Latin at Lake City, we saw a great deal of each other, and he honored me with his intimate friendship. I have in my letter-press more than a score of letters from him, which are full of the kindness and enthusiastic consecration to the high purposes of his life which made his character so lovable and so powerful in its influence for good.



CHAPTER VII.

Letters showing how *faithfully* and *prayerfully* Major Russell labored to secure the Scientific Temperance Law for the State. Mrs. Alice C. Brown, Vice-President at Large of W. C. T. U., and Superintendent of Department for Scientific Temperance Instruction, received the following letters :

TALLAHASSEE, October 1, 1888.

Mrs. Alice C. Brown :

DEAR MADAM—Your favor of the 18th of September came during a temporary absence from my office, hence the delay in my reply, which I hope you will pardon.

I think the best law possible for our State is one as simple as possible, positively requiring school officers and teachers to have taught and teach the evils and ruin of intoxicants and narcotics, physically, morally, mentally and financially, either by short talks, lectures, and illustrations, and make it a cause for dismissal if not done.

I am of the opinion that the home and school training are our only hope to redeem the world and our country especially, from this great curse, of course, I mean under the grace of God. We have not only to combat appetite but fashion, relentless goddess, custom an iron tyranny and gilded, so called society, these must be tapped at the very root, at the child around the hearth stone, in the sunday-school and in the secular school.

To do this successfully, by Legislative enactments, we must move cautiously and prudently, anything too radical, too extreme, that has the appearance even of assuming the enforcement of our sentiments or opinions, will antagonize and lose our aim. I have not seen the Louisiana law, and will thank you for a copy as soon as you receive it. I mail you a copy of

the school law of Florida as it now stands, and in it a set of regulations framed by myself in obedience to law. See 11th clause, section 13 page 8, prescribing the duties of the State Superintendent, approved, adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education, in which you will see what I have done in the line of temperance teaching.

Trusting, Madam, you will understand my attitude as expressed in this hastily written letter,

I am yours, truly,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

FOUND IN THE REGULATIONS PREPARED BY MAJOR RUSSELL.

REGULATION 8.—The evil of intemperance abroad in the land demands the attention of all true men and women everywhere, that its tide may be turned back, and the great social evil abated, therefore the State Board of Education call upon all County Superintendents and County Boards of Public Instruction to see that the pupils are from time to time, as the regular work and duties of the school will permit, impressed with the evils flowing from the use of intoxicants and narcotics, morally, physically and financially, so that a wholesome conception of the evil and ruin wrought by them may be had by every pupil.

TALLAHASSEE, March 18, 1889.

Mrs. Alice C. Brown :

DEAR MADAM—Your very interesting letter, of the 11th present, came while I was absent at DeFuniak Springs in attendance upon our State Teachers' Institute, which I very much enjoyed, and think will result in much good ; this will explain the delay in my reply.

I fear perhaps you may have wrongly interpreted some of my remarks, as indicated by some of your words. I desire to say in all truth that I am fully in sympathy with you in the necessity, absolute, for teaching, inculcating and indoctrinating to and into the children a full and complete knowledge of all the evil of the use, I will not say the abuse, for nine-tenths of the best, most emotional and highest bred members of the human family will, if they dare tamper with the curse at all,

abuse it; I also think and believe that the best, most effective, most enduring teaching and indoctrinating is to be done at home by God's selected teachers, the parents, next by the church and Sunday-school, God's great organized *school*. I fear society! Parents and guardians will have a fearful account to render just along this line; this home and church work, supplemented by *appropriate* secular school work, would in all probability accomplish great good; without this paramount home and church work, the work in the public schools would utterly fail.

My remark in reference to "rule and ruin," quoted by yourself, was based upon the reported threat made by the Union in the case of Mississippi, that they would see that another Governor was elected, because the Governor of that State felt it was his duty to veto a law passed by the Legislature, which doubtless he thought to be in violation of some organic law or some interest of the State. I thank God that he has given me grace to labor for the cause, which I represent, utterly fearless and regardless of any threat of non-election to office. I would do what I honestly believed to be right if I thought it would bring upon me the *anathemas* of every man and woman in the state, so long as I felt I would have God's approval. There is doubtless but little use in my discussing the question now. I shall try and have some law enacted promoting the knowledge desired to be taught, which shall be in keeping with the State's educational interests, but I certainly shall oppose with all my might the passage of any law that will embarrass them. I enclose a copy of the clause of the 10th section, prescribing the duties and prerogatives of the County Superintendents of Public Instruction, which is my idea of a Temperance Law. It will be presented to the Legislature, and I shall do all I can consistent with my relations to the government and State to have it enacted. It seems to me that if the Union is not set upon having "their law" passed it is

all they can require. Trusting, madam, my position is understood and appreciated, I beg to be obediently,

Yours,

A. J. RUSSELL.

TALLAHASSEE, April 6, 1889.

Mrs. Alice C. Brown :

DEAR MADAM—Yours of the 3d present received. It is exceedingly gratifying to me to read your letter this morning, and to find that I am in accord with the good women of my State in so important a matter as the true education of the children.

I know you will pardon me if I indulge in a personal remark, I rejoice in what I am pleased sometimes to say; that my country women are emancipated from conventionalities, which in a mistaken conception bound them to a holy and lovely, but narrow confine, under the blessed name of home-circle; and that now she has entered the robust activities of the moral and mental world, and that the advancing civilization of our day, pulsates at her refining and inspiring touch. I realize that where woman is uplifted, as the exponent of a people's virtue, refinement, and purity, that, there civilization has taken its loftiest attitude, for where man is most depraved, woman is most degraded, and where he is most exalted, woman is most blessed, thanks be to our holy christian civilization.

I write these words that you may know, as I have feared you might think, I am not opposed to anything, woman may propose; because she proposed it. One more word, I *am not influenced* as much as a *straw's weight*, politically in any movement, my religion or my judgement may indicate is the right; last summer when many of the counties were canvassing the question of "Local Option," at the request of the friends of temperance, I spoke to the people in nineteen of the counties, advocating it, although the politicians, some of them, told me it

would be my "political grave," and that if I succeeded, I would deprive the State of a large amount of Revenue, so dear madam, you will see I am a temperance man, one who lives by an humble trust in the Son of God. Now in reference to the suggestions your convention makes, I have no objection to the amendments or addition, and will try and get them put in; as the committee discusses the Educational Law, I have framed and have had submitted, although all this is not only implied, but is enforced in the law, when taken as a whole; that is, there are clauses, and sections which bear upon this clause, so that when the whole is considered, there can be no dodging the duty.

I will enclose a copy of the law, as I have framed it, it may be interesting to you to look it over, in the meantime I will submit your proposed amendments to the committee with my endorsement and approval. If the ladies, or yourself, could write at once to the Representatives from your county, and those of any other county, whom you may know or think of, and urge them to advocate and vote for it, it will be well.

There are several bills to be introduced, I hear, and some of them would take us back to the old time school master, with his green spectacles and buck-horn handle cane, and their concomitants of antiquity. If it becomes necessary, I shall ask the Legislature to "hear me for my cause," in joint session, and I believe God will inspire me for the time.

Now, dear madam, will you pray for me, when you commune with Our Father, Oh! pray daily for me, that God may fit me, strengthen me, give me wisdom, prudence, patience, perseverance and great faith, and deep, *deep* humility, and may He richly bless you, as you pray for me.

Very truly yours,

A. J. RUSSELL.

TALLAHASSEE, JUNE 8, 1889.

The law, as sent you in reference to Temperance Instruc-

tion, has been passed. I faithfully submitted the amendments to the committee on education, and urged, that they would perhaps more surely guarantee a systematic course of instruction, without repeated interference of local school authorities; but the committee seemed to think differently, though they sat on the law nearly six weeks, and jeopardized its passage, so that I got it through on the last night of the session, about 10 minutes before the hammer of adjournment fell.

Very Respectfully,
A. J. RUSSELL.

Chap. 3872, Sec. 20. Par. 10, Acts of the Legislature of 1889. (Prescribing the duties of the County Boards of Public Instruction.)

"Tenth—To prescribe, in consultation with prominent teachers, a course of study for the schools of the county and grade them properly and to require to be taught in every public school in the county over which they preside, Elementary Physiology, specially as it relates to the effects of alcoholic stimulants and narcotics, morally, mentally and physically, and all persons applying for certificates to teach, shall be examined upon this branch of study, under same conditions as other branches required by law."

TALLAHASSEE, September 22, 1890.

Mrs. Alice C. Brown :

DEAR MADAM—Your letter of the 20th present received. Replying to your query as to results as to teaching Elementary Physiology in the Public Schools of this State during the year since it is required by law, I will say.

The examination of teachers has been as nearly universal as could have been expected under all the circumstances; there are a few counties in the State non-progressive, in which, however, no great advancement has been made (comparatively) in which, perhaps, it has not been taught as fully as in most of the other counties. The county school officers, as a rule, have laid hold upon the subject with commendable zeal, and I am sure I may truthfully say that out of the 83,000 youths enrolled upon our school register 60,000 of them have been taught the evil effects of alcoholic stimulants from the standpoints of health and morals; nearly all the schools are using text book; these differ in counties, but all are good and treat the subject from the same unalterable laws of God and nature. As to the salutary effects, we will be compelled to exercise the faith of the farmer when he puts his seed into the ground out of his sight, he waits hopefully and expectantly for a coming crop and harvest, adding always his continued labor.

This I know as a result, the subject is talked of more than ever, and on

quite a different line by the people, the fathers and mothers; the children often introduce it in the home, and at the fireside; and you know, perhaps, better than I what a potent factor this talking of a subject is to its attainment.

To sum up, you can report that the teaching of Physiology in our Public Schools is a fixture, both as a general subject, as far as it relates to our organization, hygiene and sanitation, and specially as it relates to alcoholic stimulants and narcotics upon the system. The former in the schools of High Grades, such as Graded Grammar and High Schools; the latter in them all, with the few exceptions referred to above.

I have always believed that in the universal education of the people in reference to the subject, was our only secular hope; and that the coming generations could be led out and into a full knowledge of the evil on the one side and the blessing on the other, as well as into a knowledge of mathematics, grammar or any other branch of knowledge, and have so stated a thousand times from the public platform.

Many of the teachers I knew (some of the best) would not be prepared to pass, and I suggested that such receive their certificates, with the condition that they appear at the end of three months for another trial. This was obeyed and many were very successful. I have had the requirement grafted upon the regulations prepared by the State Superintendent as directed by the law, and adopted by the State Board of Education, and printed with the law pamphlet, which is widely circulated. I have, whenever an opportunity afforded, striven to impress upon the minds of the mothers the importance of knowing that the temperance feature of the subject was taught, and as thoroughly as possible; nearly every county in the State have supplied their schools with charts illustrating the subject and tangibly teaching the truths involved.

I have written thus at length in order that you may understand just what is being done in this great and important field; I am convinced that with the present frame and state of mind all force legislation of every kind is a failure, so far as an entire eradication of the evil of rum is concerned, and I am led in humble trust to pray God to bless the effort in the schools.

Very respectfully yours,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., November 12, 1890.

Mrs. Alice C. Brown:

DEAR MADAM: Your appreciated letter of the 11th inst. received. I am inclined to think that the teacher to whom you refer in connection with the teaching of Physiology is an exception, and I am afraid your county is exceptional to some extent.

While I have been positive in my instructions in reference to this feature of school work, I have recognized through my intimate knowledge of the people of the State, that to convey the least idea of compul-

sory measures would destroy the whole thing, so I have been careful, and I do know that a large number of the children, a majority of them, are receiving admirable instruction on the line in question, and that a large number of counties have supplied their entire schools with fine charts from which a teacher can impart the instruction sought to have given, with great ease and with great delight to the pupil. I could not suggest anything just now while our people are oppressed financially, any extensive change in any text book involving expense to the patron, and indeed the act of 1890 makes the selection of text books to hold for five years.

I will, however, suggest to County Superintendents, that when books have to be purchased anew, they should buy the improved editions.

I enclose with much pleasure, a letter of introduction of yourself to the various school officers, and know they will receive you kindly.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

THE NEW COLLEGE.

The Congregational Association located its school at Winter Park, April 18, 1885. A board of twenty-one incorporators was chosen who will meet next week and complete their legal incorporation, as the college trustees and receive the offered properties.

Major A. J. Russell was elected one of these. At the dedication of Knowls' Hall Major Russell delivered an address.

MONTICELLO, FLA. June 11, 1891.

Jefferson Collegiate Institute closed its second successful year with a public exhibition. Hon. W. B. Lamar presented Major Russell to the audience in his usual happy style. Major Russell's address to the people, school, and the medal-winners, and lastly to the graduating class, was rich in gems of thought, strong in words of encouragement to press on in the good work, and burned with that fire peculiar to the great orator.—*Times-Union*.

JACKSONVILLE, May 14, 1894.

Miss Baker's Seminary and All the Children, Greeting: To My Friends, the Young Ladies of the Advanced Class, in the "Helpful Band."

How much I would like to have been with you and participated in the delights you are to experience I cannot tell. for true pleasure cannot be measured by either tongue or pen, nor by both.

I was a boy once, and I know how keen were the apprehensions, as well as the anticipations, just preceding examination days, and the delightful joys, and mental and moral exhilarations were, to all those who won success; and how sad and stricken those who failed of the mark; and, therefore, though years have come upon me, I can still with golden memories clustering around this occasion, enter heartily into your joys, and if, alas!

there are those who have not won the success they had aimed for, I can enter into their disappointment. While I heartily congratulate the former, I sympathize with the latter; all along the career of our race there have been prize-winners and prize-losers, and doubtless there will be until the end. I have been led to contemplate the Olympian races as I have penned these last words, I have seen them as they trained for weeks and months before the time of trial had come, all had seemed equally earnest, equally diligent, and to have looked upon them grouped, one could not have expressed an opinion as to who would win the prize, the beautiful wreath of laurels, swung up at the goal, was seized by him who reached it first, when all, vanquished and the populace, applauded generously and honestly.

So I know it will be with you, my dear young friends, and happiness supreme shall reign. I said just now that I had been a boy once, but I cannot say I have been a girl; but some times in recent years I have almost wished I had, when I have looked upon the girls in school, so bright, so affectionate towards their teachers and one another, so diligent, so obedient, so admirable in recitation, exhibiting what had been the excellence of their work, really I have almost come to think they will beat the boys, and then what? I would surely become a woman's rights man, something I now detest to contemplate. Well, dear girls, go right along, win all the prizes you can, with the aid of faithful teachers and that dearest and best of all teachers God ever gave to man, mother, you will grow up into grand women arrayed in all the beautiful Christian graces, very queens of beauty, truth and grace, just what our country, church and civilization wants to-day, and the boys will begin to see all this, and will buckle on the harness and move right up and out into broad men of noble purpose and sublime ends.

Oh! my dear children, my pen would run on and on, it seems to me, in this beautiful field, but I must close. I congratulate you, my dear children, and you, dear fathers and mothers, that you have such a school in your city, to which you may go, and so excellent and devoted a teacher as I know Miss Baker to be. May Our Father, which art in Heaven, abundantly bless you, my dear children, and with His own hand lead you out into such lives as will honor Him and bless your fellow-man, is the prayer of your sincere and earnest friend.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

Mrs. A. J. Russell,

DEAR MADAM:—I am pleased to learn of the work you have undertaken which I know must be of interest to every teacher of Florida in particular; and to its people in general, whom Major Russell served so faithfully and with eminent success for so many years. I, myself, was fortunate to enjoy his friendship which I esteemed most highly; he inspired me with many a noble thought. I send you the papers

and letters, these more than the Journal, will give you an idea of his character as manifested to those outside of his family circle and intimate friends and of the influence he must have exerted over those who came in personal contact with him; I preserved these letters because I value them. (Extract from a letter by Prof. Henry Merz, Department of Political Science, University of Wyoming.)

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT, PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. }
TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 14, 1887. }

To the Teachers of Florida:

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to-day to my co-workers in the great course of education in our State, Florida School Journal, edited by Prof. Henry Merz, whose enterprise and great love for the work in which he is professionally engaged have put on foot the publication of this paper.

It has been one of the great needs of our State that the teachers and school officers should have a journal through the columns of which they might have an opportunity of expressing themselves, discussing methods, discipline and school management as applied to the circumstances surrounding the schools of Florida; for it is true the local conditions, circumstances and temperaments of a city, county or State vary, as the case may be, to ask questions of each other as to personal experience, and compare notes of observations made. To discuss means which may be used to advance the standard of school work, as well as the interests of the profession.

Here, then in the Florida School Journal is the opportunity. Professor Merz has opened the way and it is but necessary that you teachers and officers step in and occupy it, and I sincerely trust you will, every one, come to the aid of the editor and publisher with your subscriptions, and not only these, but with your contribution of articles and that you will hold up his hands by your sympathy and encouragement.

Let us resolve that we will have a State Journal of our own in and for Florida, and put our shoulders to the wheel and the victory is won.

Truly yours,
A. J. RUSSELL.

(Prof. Merz, Editor of Florida School Journal, in a brief history of Major Russell, writes thus :)

In 1884, Major Russell was commissioned by Governor Bloxham, State Superintendent of Public Instruction to succeed the Hon. E. K. Foster. Upon assuming this responsible office he immediately set to work in a manner to leave his impress upon the school system of the State. He began his official work at the State Agricultural College at Lake City; which he has ever since so vigorously pushed forward namely, that of rousing the popular mind to a proper appreciation of our educational needs. That this is a most important work, and that Major Russell has succeeded in doing it better than anyone else in the State could have done, can hardly be questioned.

The two most important things in connection with Major Russell's administration of the school system have been his public educational addresses and the holding of Teachers' Institutes, while it is true that these two have gone along together, the one sometimes seeming to be mere auxiliary to the other yet in their efforts upon the educational interests they have been so different that we shall speak of each separately.

Major Russell is an orator and speaks well upon any subject, but it is upon educational topics that his addresses attain an eloquence and force that make him remarkable. I know it is said that in this age of news papers the public speaker is at a discount; that at best his influence is only transitory. But I am satisfied upon a careful review of Major Russell's work, it will be found that there is still a potency in eloquence. To be sure the sum total of an influence like this cannot be calculated, but there is sufficient evidence of a substantial nature

that stand as an exponent of its force. That there are such evidences, we think must be admitted by every one when told that the first impulse which led to the erection of school buildings at Pensacola, Tampa, Fernandina, Tallahassee and other places, was first given by Major Russell in his strong appeals in behalf of education. It will of course be understood by every one that all of these addresses could not have been made alike, and at the same time suit the changes in the place, the special occasion, or the character of the audience. They were not alike! Indeed no two of Major Russell's speeches are *alike*. The writer has heard him in scores of his educational speeches, and while from the nature of the case, the same ideas had to be presented, yet, in no instance, did he ever know the same language to be repeated. One of the best evidences of his wealth of expression is this fact; that he can present the same thought, time and again, in a different garb. To think of Major Russell, however, as an orator capable of making only an impassioned appeal would be to have a very imperfect idea of his resources and power. If space permitted, we could show how in many cases, he accomplished his purpose by sarcasm and irony, while in others the same end was attained by common-sense logic.

What has been done by Major Russell in the interests of Teacher's Institutes is, perhaps, the leading work of his administration, prior to his assuming the superintendency but three or four institutes had been held in the State. The teachers and the people did not really understand what was meant by them. As a consequence, prejudice had to be overcome. Our State Superintendent realized this in the beginning, and seemed to understand at once how it should be managed. The result is, that now Teachers Institutes are most popular and more demands are made for them than the Superintendent is able to meet. The plan pursued in this work has been the very best possible to advance our educational interests instead of holding long continued sessions at some central point. Major Russell

has gone into nearly every county, beside this, the people were reached and local sentiment developed and strengthened in the place visited.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, STATE OF FLORIDA, }
OFFICE SUPT. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. }

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 22, 1887.

Editor of Florida School Journal :

I have been requested by many teachers and school officers to give my views in reference to the important question, "*How can industrial training or teaching be done in the public schools without a special organization for that particular purpose ?*" I am disposed to try to answer the question because I realize the vast importance of the work, and its great value to the youth of the whole country, and especially to the South, and to Florida. Whether my crude thought upon the subject will be of any value, remains to be seen, but I trust to be able to make some suggestions to aid these earnest-working teachers, who are evidently reaching outward and upward in their chosen field of labor.

In this matter of industrial training, it is not expected that boys and girls should be taught trades ; this is not done even in the Polytechnic Schools ; but they may be taught the principles involved in them ; a knowledge of the use of tools, implements and forces used in them. This is comparatively easy of accomplishment in the public schools and without detriment to the regular literary work. To demonstrate how this may be done, even upon a limited scale, and may be made to constitute a valuable part of education, is my chief object.

I believe no one accustomed to think upon the public school system, as established in America, will fail to see the importance of such a knowledge, and that it is the duty of the State, while educating the masses to educate them as far as possible with reference to their capabilities and the current of life in which, under Providence, they are destined to flow, espe-

cially since seven-tenths of the pupils in our schools are the children of artisans, mechanics and laborers of the country and State.

It is a fact that there is a vast amount of impractical education done in this country. In every city, town or hamlet, men can be found who are cultured in the dead languages, in the letter of natural philosophy and the higher mathematics, who if thrust out by necessity, disaster or Providence, into the practical, busy, pushing world, are utterly incapable of applying to practical purposes what they know.

It is also a fact that the learned professions are filled to overflowing, and no more pitiful sight is seen than a young man in one of these, struggling and waiting for some of the older ones to be advanced by age or removed by death that he may, perhaps, step in. It is also a fact that there are a large number of young men on the inside of the counter, compared with the number upon the outside, whom they are wont to serve. The field and the farm are deserted by thousands of stalwart young men—alas! that it should be so—who flock to towns and cities, and who are so unfitted to enter manufactories and workshops, or other places of industrial art, and therefore are driven to accept of any temporary employment, however unsuitable in character or profit, and the result is frequently moral disaster. In view of all this, industrial training and the direction of the mind into that channel, is of incalculable value in the public schools, especially in view of the sterner fact that so large a number of our youth, both male and female, who enter school, must of necessity, drop out even before the full common school course can be completed, and must, through employment of some kind, become contributors to the support of the family. They can never hope to go higher in education, except through the most intense personal effort, or the benevolence of some large-hearted person who may have discovered the ambition and aspiration, of the youth.

Recognizing all these facts and circumstances, how can this industrial qualification be imparted in the public schools? Of course, in a State like Florida, doing all she can in the field of popular education, having proper regard for the people's ability to pay, and where the establishment of one or more technical or tool-craft schools is an impossibility, even if they were established and successfully operated, their doors would be effectually shut to the masses because of the inability of the poor to bear the expense of boarding their children away from home. I suggest that a knowledge of applied mechanics may be given; which will amount with the youth to a pastime, among these forces, the lever, the inclined plane and the screw, are sufficient to illustrate my present idea. Let a lever of straight-grained pine, 3x6 inches, eighteen or twenty feet long, dressed smooth and the corners taken off, weighing fifty, eighty or one hundred pounds, or more, be taken, also pieces of lumber suitable to place piece upon piece to form a fulcrum of any height desired, be obtained and kept ready upon the school ground, and we can begin to illustrate the power and use of the lever as a mechanical force; of course, any intelligent teacher knows the principles involved and can readily explain them in a short lecture to a class of boys. This being done, select the weight to be moved or raised, being sure it is sufficiently heavy not to be easily moved by two or more boys; then have two or three of them try to lift it up to a given height; of course they will fail. Now, after applying the failure to lift or raise the weight, in a few words, place the fulcrum at such a distance as that the greater part of the lever will be between the fulcrum and the weights, do this for a purpose, then call as many boys as can get on the end of the lever outside the fulcrum; of course they will again fail to raise the weight, and their faith in the power of the lever will be shaken. Now adjust the fulcrum to a proper distance from the weight and have the boys carefully press down upon the lever, and the weight will be easily moved, and the minds of the pupils will have

taken in much of the knowledge of the lever, while the illustrations may be varied from time to time until this useful implement of mechanics shall become intimate to the minds of the pupils. Mechanics find it necessary in working the lever to have two or more crow bars with which by a process technically called "pinching," the weight is moved a very little at a time and "chinked" up until there is space enough to receive the end of the lever under the weight. These crow bars are a kind of lever, in a measure, combining both lever and fulcrum. The quick or sudden curve at the claw end of crow bar constitutes the fulcrum and can be driven under the weight and "pinched" up; this will afford an interesting lesson and will generally be received by pupils with great interest and zeal.

Next, the incline plane: Let the teacher or school officers have an incline plane constructed, eight feet from the point at the ground to the top edge, and two feet across the face or top, strongly constructed, and covered on top with boards running longitudinally. This may be made of undressed lumber. Let the incline raise to four feet from the ground, then have a level platform four feet high, and four feet square on top, so as to receive the weight raised, and obtain also one or two cuts from hickory or oak trees six feet long solid wood. Now ask the boys to pick up either of these cuts of heavy wood and place it on the platform; of course they will fail and realize their weakness. Now have as many as can get to it roll it toward the point of the inclined plane. Should the direction of the rolling need to be changed, use the crow-bar for pinching purposes and pinch either end of the log in the direction desired until the log is square to the foot of the incline plane; then let all hands roll the log up, being careful not to roll one end faster or slower than the other. Mean time have two boys, each with a crow-bar to be used as a *scotch* to prevent the weight of the log precipitating it down the incline plane despite the rollers. The *scotch* is also an incline plane used in reverse relation,

and will afford an excellent lesson from the wide-awake teacher. Presently the log will be safely landed on the platform and be at repose, and the pupil will see how weight is overcome, and large and heavy bodies may be lifted and adjusted to their places. Next obtain a small *bed jack-screw*, and explain how heavy bodies are moved upward and laterally by means of its use, and explain how the thread of the screw is but a curved incline plane moving in a circular motion within a groove on the same curve and with the same upward and downward tendency, and operated by means of the lever, which is the crow-bar passing through the screw near the top.

This opens a score or more of very interesting lessons, most of which are direct illustrations in tool-craft. The screw-nail, used so extensively in carpentry and cabinet work, cuts its way into the wood by its own screw thread, the point of the gimlet-screw likewise, and of the auger and auger-bits. Take the auger as an illustration, the screw-bit taking hold upon the grain of wood draws the cutters or planes of the auger down upon the surface of the wood, cuts away the substance just as thick as the downward tendency of the screw-bit is, while the screw shaped band of the auger is of an upward tendency and bears the chips made by the cutting planes at the bottom of the band of the auger, out of the bore made, and thus prevents the clogging or *scotching* of the cutting planes until at last we have the timber bored through, or as deep as we may desire. Thus in the simple use of the auger we have the principle of the incline plane both as to the straight upward grade and in the form of the screw and the wedge-shaped cutter. Now, the teacher having each tool in hand may explain how the principle of the incline plane enters not only in the raising of weights and adjusting them to higher positions, but also in the division of solid bodies as of wood, stone or metal, the bit of the plane, the chisel and the gouge. The saw is but a system of incline planes; the axe, the hatchet also, some of these are single incline planes, as the plane-bit, the chisel,

the gouge and the cutter at the end of the auger-band. Some are double incline planes, as the axe, the saw, the hatchet, and the wedge.

Here the teacher will have an admirable opportunity to impart wholesome lessons which will never be forgotten. Another happy opportunity of illustration is the plow, the point being the cutting-plane, separating the soil and cutting asunder the roots which infest the ground, and the shovel being the curved incline plane receiving the moving soil as the cutter is drawn through it, and by its curved relation to the straight or cutting point, turning over the sod and exposing the roots of weeds and grass to kill them when they are rapidly converted into fertilizer to enrich the soil for a coming crop.

I trust I have in simple language opened up such a field of illustration in applied mechanic forces and in tool-craft as to uses and principles involved, that any ordinarily intelligent teacher may take up the thread and extend it along a line of investigation and study which is thickly strewn with lessons in this direction. I have written for Florida teachers and Florida schools. Should my crude effort fall under the eye of the older States in this peculiar work, which have enjoyed the excellent system of the Polytechnic schools and training, I hope they will be indulgent and remember we are climbing up, and will be watchful that we do not outstrip them and after all, write Florida "excelsior" above them all. If I should succeed in starting industrial training in all the public schools in our fair State, and awaken an interest in it on the part of all our earnest teachers ere the time comes for me to retire from the work, I shall humbly thank God for the grace given me to accomplish so much. And now, dear teachers, let me urge you to give special attention to this exceedingly important part of true practical education. Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL.

TRIBUTE FROM FLORIDA STATE JOURNAL.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

Of all officers to be elected next November by the people of Florida, State Superintendent is foremost in the minds of every teacher. This is as it ought to be, for he is the general in whose skill, in marshalling the forces of nearly three thousand teachers and treble that number of school officers, depends the success of the battle, and the future welfare and prosperity of the State.

The duties of this office are peculiar in Florida and different from that in most of the other States, to collect and publish statistics, to apportion and distribute the State fund, to organize and hold Teachers' Institutes are duties which, no doubt, a number of our earnest educational workers could perform. The public school system of our beloved State is comparatively young, and in many portions has cast out rootlets scarcely large enough to keep it alive. Tender nursing and careful watching need an experienced hand guided with a heart full of love and zeal for the work, and a tongue that can appeal to the sympathy of our people for this tender plant and make them love and cherish it.

We ask our fellow-teachers what man is better fitted for this work than the present incumbent. Hon. A. J. Russell?

It is not necessary here to review Major Russell's work during his term; suffice to say that Florida owes her wonderful progress in education to his wise management and eloquent appeals to her people. His name is favorably mentioned by a number of papers for the highest office in the hands of the people, that of Governor, but we loudly protest. No doubt Major Russell would make a good Governor, but we need him as Superintendent of Public Instruction, and knowing so well what love and enthusiasm he has for this grand and noble work, we feel confident that he would, for the benefit of the State and her people, willingly give up the prospects of the more lucrative and tempting position of Governor, for that of State Superintendent if nominated by the convention. We sincerely hope that that body will make a wise selection, and no better can be made than that advocated by the *Journal*.

Prof. Henry Merz left Florida October 1888, for Laramie, Wyoming, where he accepted a position in the University. The *Journal* was then transferred to Prof. T. L. Kern.

NOVEMBER 1888.

The heart of every progressive teacher in the State rejoices at the election of Hon. A. J. Russell to the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position so ably and devotedly filled by him during the past five years. That our educational system with the increased quantity and quality of the work has made phenomenal progress is due largely to the wisdom, energy, heart, and soul which this noble, God-fearing Christian has put into it.

While worthy of a higher and better paying position, we are glad to

know that Florida's educational interests are to remain in the hands of our good and gallant Major. and that many times again shall our assembly hall ring with his silvery tones, whose golden words thrill and emulate us to purer and more devoted service in the great battle against ignorance and wasted opportunities.—*From the Journal.*

NOTES BY MAJOR RUSSELL.

FLORIDA SCHOOL JOURNAL.

Life is like a harness. There are traces of care, lines of trouble, bits of good fortune, breaches of good manners, bridled tongues and everybody has a tug to pull through.

MARCH, 1889.

"Let every County Superintendent watch closely and discover some boy or girl who is struggling hard to cultivate his mind, perhaps against great odds, and send him straightway to the State College where he will have every opportunity in any line of study at a mere trifle of cost."

"We are very glad that the schools all over the State started out well this year. Even places where the dread pestilence had been, lost none of their school spirit and at the first moment went heartily to work." How we would rejoice to see every public school in the State standing singing every morning songs of joy, thanksgiving, praise and patriotism, we would soon have singing homes and thus happy and attractive homes. We want vocal music introduced and taught in every school. Now some one will say, "How can you do this in county log school houses in places remote and where everything is crude and rough?" Bless your soul, my good croaker, that is just where we want it. You are on the right track but don't know it. Let one start these poor children gathered in these dark, gruesome, uncanny log school houses to sing sweetly, quickly, in proper time, giving utterance to lofty sentiment, and the old log house will not be long in lighting up. Then, may be, in summer vacation the old house will come down and give place

to a new, pretty and cheerful one, and oh, what a change! How the faces of the little ones will glow and expand and bright lustre come to the eye and happiness to every child's heart I guarantee to take a band of children, all clean and tidy, and sing anything in the world I want for my school out of any Board you ever saw. Let us sing. "How time flies and how rapidly the school year draws to a close; some are closed already—too, too soon. Venerable members of the Board, you ought to stretch the term to twice its length. Why, look here, it is for your children and your neighbor's children, for good citizenship in future and you are permitted to help build up this glorious privilege. Get at it gentlemen, and double the length of the term." "Teachers, children, how is it with you? Are you putting in the moments, hours and days, as they fly as if using time the mighty *now* to prepare for eternity? Better review your work before the Great Reviewer comes, it may afford an opportunity for amendment."

SEPTEMBER, 1889.

Vacation, nearly gone, and study time comes on apace, and the 2,250 public schools, free schools, yes, free as the very air we breathe, will be opened and ready for work and the 113,000 boys and girls, rich and poor, white and black, will be gathered at the school house door, and 2,400 teachers cheerfully and faithfully watching for them! What a work, what an opportunity, what a responsibility, what a field for good, or alas! for evil; God help all these children and teachers to the good.

How the days of leisure and pleasure flee away, to be sure; yes, and so do the shadows, sombre shadows of life, and let in the glorious sunshine, the sunshine of blessed opportunity, and high privilege, let us all use it the coming school year, with might and main, bringing gathered strength, energy and fresh knowledge to our chosen field of work. Good teachers and children, bring you from your time of vacation, the sweet spirit of love and obedience, diligence and truth, and what a school year we shall have this coming year, what results the unfolding

cycles of Eternity can only tell and measure, one thing is sure if we are faithful we know it shall be only good.

Let thorough, clean, practical work be the rule this year, no superficial gliding over, in a sweet whirl of false success, let teachers of the public schools remember that the large majority of the pupils, especially in the cities and towns, are the children of the poorer population, and must of necessity drop out somewhere at the intermediate point, and enter the ranks of the toilers and bread earners, and strive to make them thorough, as far as they are privileged to go, and you will have given them a key by which they may unlock the store of the house of knowledge and help themselves farther, and if rightly taught and led by you, rest assured they will do it. A well and truly established start in knowledge creates a thirst for more, and will not be satisfied very often, until it is satisfied by copious drafts.

TEACHER'S DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Are teachers responsible for pupils during the hours intervening the sessions of the school? is a question frequently submitted to us by teachers, parents, Boards of Public Instruction and school supervisors. Teachers are certainly responsible for the conduct of their pupils during the hours of the school and recess; responsible for proper restraint and control, for lead and influence. Indeed we are of the opinion that it is as much the duty of the teacher to look after the amusement and recreation of the children entrusted to their care, as their studies; to see that all untoward mischief is eliminated, bad and improper language is excluded, to check outbursts of temper under the excitement growing out of the amusement and aid in making the recess just what it is intended for—a healthful and joyous recuperation. We hold that with this, the teacher's responsibility for the deportment of the pupil ceases, and the home influence and training assumes its place.

The public school system is not intended to take the place

of the home. The best school in all the world is the fireside or chimney corner of the well regulated home, and the best teacher in the world, the one whose lessons are the most potent for good in all human society is the Christian or pious mother. It is not a mere poetic sentiment when written. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," but a manifest truth; nay, the school does not relieve parental authority or responsibility, or substitute home influence. These are established by God Himself and He will hold those charged with it responsible, despite human ingenuity or substitution. To make a teacher responsible for all the conduct of the pupil after he has departed from the school until he or she returns again, is unreasonable and unjust. The teacher is not a bailiff or police officer charged with the preservation of the public peace of any community in which he may be employed; true, if bad or improper conduct of his pupils is reported to him, he should try and exert his influence against it, but his best course is to inform the parents of the offending pupils, and request their interpositions; and the very fact that he is to be reported at home instead of at school, will check him many a time. The teacher is responsible for the school, the parents for home and its influence.

"Reports of general good work, peace and harmony come in from all over the general field, now and then there are spots that shoot up their uncomely heads, but these soon slough off and healing, are the more lustrous because of the admirable contrast they make with the antecedent, and then what a graceful moving off into line of march. Ah, yes; out of evil there cometh forth good."

We are often asked from abroad and sometimes at home, "What is your opinion of a law fixing the tenure of teacher's office?" We always answer, "We have a splendid law for it down here, mutually enacted and established by teachers and people. Then comes the response and query: "You have, what is it, can you send us a copy?" And we write: The teacher holds

the tenure in his own hands. The excellent, successful teacher, who wins the affection of his pupils and their esteem (and how loyal children are when they accord their loyalty,) and sends them home to tell how happy they have been at school and repeat the words of endearment which have dropped from the teacher, to quiz their parents about this and that until really they get beyond the present ken of the old folks. Such a teacher may stay just as long as he may desire to.

We have several Florida teachers in our mind's eye of this type, one, an old man now, who has taught two generations well nigh. You meet a stalwart man over in West Florida and talk about school and he tells you presently of old Mr. B., and fervently he says: "God bless him; what a teacher he is!" The pupils of his school, the other day, grown men and women, teachers and mothers now, proposed to make up a sum of money sufficient to make easy his declining years. Another, a lady principal of one of the largest and most flourishing graded schools in the State, had taught continuously for eleven years, and when her parents, growing in age, and needing her with them at home, she announced to the County Board that she must, though very reluctantly, decline teaching another year, immediately an increase of salary was offered and an earnest request from Board and patrons, and children and associate teachers, but stern duty to her aged parents called her home.

This is the tenure of a good teacher's office in our blessed Florida.

Good teachers take the hint and avail yourselves of this tenure.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF SCHOOL JOURNAL.

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 7, 1887

Prof. Henry Merz:

DEAR SIR:—

Your very excellent letter of the 5th instant received. Your position in reference to the matter of Federal aid to the States in regard to the

education of the masses, is as good as has been taken or that can be taken, and since, I know, it is your conscientious opinion, you are right to maintain it, but in my case I see it involving a principle which may work ruin. I cannot without self-conviction of treachery advocate the measure. On two occasions, when driven to the wall, I have avowed my views and opinions upon the subject, but, in as mild a manner as possible.

You go on and advocate the measure, and let the teachers do as they desire. As I said in my last, it may work good and I trust in God, whom I confidently believe is at the helm of our ship of state, to avert any great evil out of which good may not be finally wrought. My conceptions of the Political Economy of our Country and Government, my party training and the inculcation of its principles, arraign my mind in opposition to the measure; I believe it entirely unconstitutional and in opposition to the intent and purpose of our Federation. But notwithstanding my attitude, recognizing my imperfection and fallibility, and therefore my liability to mistake and error, and seeing so many greater and better men than I am advocating the measure, I have remained silent upon the subject, trusting that Beneficent Divine Providence would lead and guide in the matter to His Glory and the great benefit of our people.

In regard to adopting the Journal as the Organ of the State Board, I think there will be no objection, but in regard to the financial part of the proposition I have no hope. Let me state to you how we are situated in a money point of view. We never have a cent here after the receipt of the fund for one year until the receipt of it the next year. Just as soon as the Treasurer receives the interest due on the invested fund (the Common School Fund) he notifies me of the amount on hand, I at once pro rate that among the counties in proportion to the school population and as soon as the mails can do their work the money, every cent of it, is in possession of the school authorities of the various counties. Likewise in May as soon as the Comptroller turns the Constitutional one mill tax to the Treasurer, he notifies me of the amount and I at once pro rate among the Counties as above and the money is gone. The Law makes these funds forever inviolable to the use of the *school direct*. We cannot print the blanks furnished by the State, to operate the schools throughout the State, special appropriation has to be made for that purpose. If it was necessary for me to go on some special mission in the interest of the schools or perform some extraordinary work, it could not be paid for, even to the amount of my expenses, out of the school fund. So you will clearly see how we are situated in the case.

I would, if I could at once place the Journal upon a living basis, believing that I should put to work a lever that would still uplift the great cause in which we struggle.

Truly Yours,

A. J. RUSSELL.

A TRIBUTE.

BY PROFESSOR MC'BEATH—SCHOOL EXPONENT.

A simple announcement of the death of Hon. A. J. Russell as made through the daily and weekly press of the State, has already carried sadness into the hearts and homes of thousands throughout Florida—the State of his adoption and his love, the field of his mighty labors, and the scene of his struggles and his triumphs.

De mortuis nil nisi bonum, the beautiful injunction of the ancients, will apply with peculiar force when the pen of the future historian of Florida touches the life and the life-work of this great and good man; for there will be nothing but good to say.

Endowed above the ordinary with energy, eloquence and personal magnetism, he dedicated all his powers to the glory of God and the good of humanity, and with a devotion that knew no reserve and a resolution that never faltered, he battled for the right, for truth, for temperance, for liberty and for light, till the going down of the sun.

Not "after life's fitful fever," but *after life's long fought battle* "he sleeps well." And if it be true of the good who die, as we are told, and as we believe, that "their works do follow them," with what a bright and glorious retinue must his spirit have entered into the "silent land!" There was scarcely a corner in the Master's vineyard in which he had not labored, scarcely a line in the "world's broad field of battle" for the good and the beautiful and the true, in the front of which he had not fought. There was hardly a great organization for the betterment of mankind and the uplifting of humanity, of which he was not a zealous and active member; and no more earnest and eloquent tongue ever plead the cause of religion, of temperance and of education.

"Write it of me," said the gentle Richter, "that I loved God and little children." This may be truly said of Major

Russell. While all causes looking to the lifting up of mankind found in him a ready champion, yet the cause of public education, perhaps, lay nearest his heart, and in it he did his best and greatest work.

Called to leadership at a time when public education in Florida was yet in a chaotic condition, the schools ineffective and the people distrustful or apathetic, for nine years as State Superintendent, against seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he carried on the work of organization and plead the cause of the children. Out of chaos he evolved system and order, and kindled, by his matchless eloquence, in the hearts of the people an enthusiasm in the cause of education that has built up—an everlasting monument to his memory—one of the completest and best systems of public instruction in America to-day.

He was the founder of the Institute of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, as well as the moving spirit in the establishment of the State normal schools. It was the dream of his life to see established in the State a reform school where young criminals might be sent for reformation. And when such a school is established, as it surely will be some day, it should not be forgotten whose pen first pointed out the need, and whose eloquence first plead for its establishment.

Florida will not—cannot—forget him, for his memory will live with the life and grow with the growth of her public school system, with which it is inseparably associated.

Thus to have lived is life's supremest good ;
Thus to have died, its richest triumph.



RESOLUTIONS FROM EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENTS.

SCHOOLS PASS RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, Death has taken from us Maj. A. J. Russell, a strong and true friend to education; and

Whereas, He not only did not advocate the education of one class alone, but of the whole people, and was always especially zealous in behalf of the education of the colored youth of the State; and

Whereas, We deeply deplore his loss,

Be it Resolved, That we do express the sorrow which we feel in the loss of our friend, a loss which is not ours alone, but that of the entire State.

Be it further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the daily papers of the city.

Signed by the teachers and pupils of Stanton Graded School, J. W. Johnson, Principal.

Signed by the teachers and pupils of LaVilla School, A. H. Joplin, Principal.

Signed by the teachers and pupils of Oakland Graded School, W. E. Partee, Principal.

Taken from School Paper. D. H. S.

With sincerest regret we announce the death of Major Albert J. Russell on January 17th, in this city.

To him, we owe the beginning of the D. H. S., and by his death, we feel that in common with every other institution in the State, we have sustained an irreparable loss.

In 1884, he was appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which position he held with such competency that he twice was reinstated. He was for many years president of the Board of Trustees for National Odd Fellows' Home, and Grand Sec. of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

A GOOD MAN GONE.

"Resolved, That in the death of ex-School Superintendent Albert J. Russell we recognize the loss of one of the truest and best of Florida's educators, as a friend of the teachers and of the children of the State, and a man full of power, gentleness, and love; that we lament his death as only those who knew, and loved him, can do; and we cherish and venerate his memory; that we extend to his widow, our tenderest sympathy and condolence; and that we take some steps to erect a suitable memorial to his name and worth.—State Teachers' Association. Feb. 19, 1896.

A GREAT LOSS.

"Within a few months we have been called to mourn the loss of one who had filled not only the highest educational office in the State, but also

the highest place in the hearts of the people. For power to stir the hearts of a people with noble aspirations, Maj. Russell has never had his equal before the people of Florida. Fired with an enthusiasm born of a truly great heart, he had but to open his mouth and immediately there was kindled such a conflagration of souls as would burn all baser thoughts and leave the atmosphere rife with grand resolution. He, knowing nothing so much as his love for his fellow beings when he spoke to this association, made every heart glow and carried it back even to the little log school house in the piney woods far down the peninsula, and there awoke in the hearts of thousands the latent germs of noble action. His name will ever call up feelings of the highest regard in all who knew him."—By Pres. Fulks of Leesburg.

RESOLUTIONS.

The committee on resolutions reported the following:

Whereas, The Superintendent's department of the National Educational Association has learned, with deep sorrow, of the death of one of the honored members of the Association, be it

Resolved, That in his death the association is deprived of one of its most honored and efficient members, one who was also a founder of an association. In his death the cause of education loses one who in every thought and action of singularly rich and noble life, was devoted to the cause he honored in serving.

"His loss will be mourned not only by the large circle of his personal friends, but by the larger army of educators, in which he was a distinguished and devoted leader."

Dr. White, a personal friend of the deceased, spoke eloquently of his traits of head and heart. The resolution was passed by a rising and unanimous vote.

Since the decease of Major Russell, the State Normal has been orphaned, and has like most bereaved ones to struggle for existence.

The name of A. J. Russell is engraven on tablets more lasting than brass or marble and will live as long as Florida has children to educate.

C. P. WALKER, Prin. F. S. N. C.

Nov. 3, 1896.

JASPER, FLA., Jan. 18, 1896.

Mrs. A. J. Russell,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Madam:—

In behalf of the teachers of Florida, allow me to say, that we mourn with you in your sad affliction.

In the death of Maj. A. J. Russell, humanity has lost an earnest friend.

Most Sincerely Yours,

J. M. GUILLIAMS.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF MAJ. ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF DUVAL COUNTY,
AT A MEETING HELD FEB. 11, 1896.

Whereas, It has pleased an Alwise Providence to remove from our midst Major Albert J. Russell, for many years a member of this board, who passed away in this city, on January 17, 1896, and

Whereas, That in the death of Maj. Russell, our State, county and city loses a valuable citizen, an upright man, a fearless Christian, as well as a zealous and constant worker in the cause of education; and

Whereas, As a member of this, as County Superintendent and State Superintendent of public instruction, he devoted his best energies to building up the school system and advancing the cause of education in our State and to his efforts are largely due the present efficiency of our public schools; therefore

Resolved, By the Board of Public Instruction of Duval county, Florida, That we tender to his bereaved widow, our sincere and heartfelt sympathies in her great affliction, and commend her to him, who alone can comfort her in her deep sorrow. It is further

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon our records, and that copies of the same be sent to Mrs. Russell and also be furnished the city papers for publication.

W. A. BOURS, }
R. S. COCKRELL, } Committee.

Attest: JOEL D. MEAD,
Secretary and Superintendent.

RESOLUTIONS.

Of all who in our fair State have labored for the good of their fellow men, none have wrought more faithfully, lovingly and successfully than the late Hon. A. J. Russell.

Much of the present promising condition of educational matters in this State is due to his careful planning and conscientious execution. Such men are rarely given to earth, and it is but wise economy to perpetuate the memory of their lives and deeds.

We learn with pleasure of the publication of his biography, and commend it with special emphasis to the colored teachers of the State, because during his entire educational career, he was their unswerving friend and fearless patron.

T. V. GIBBS,
Mrs. M. E. C. SMITH,
L. A. KIRKSEY, Committee.

Unanimously adopted at State Teacher's Association, Jacksonville, Fla.,
April 20-23, 1897.

T. De S. TUCKER, Pres.
C. HAROLDE UGGAMS, Sec'y.

CHAPTER VIII.

TRIBUTE.

CHAS. A. FULWOOD.

Delineation of character is always both delicate and difficult. Personal likes and dislikes—prejudice and predilection are apt to warp judgment, and give coloring to any portraiture that may be drawn, whither of the living or dead. All objects appear different when viewed from different standpoints. Whither the creative genius of the artist finds expression in Architecture, or “breathing marble,” or “speaking canvas,” his genius and work can never be justly measured or estimated except by those who take positions from which correct observations may be made—positions from which defects and excellencies can alike be seen. It is only in this way that a true and just conception of any work of art can be gained, and it is much in the same way and by the same method, that we arrive at an approximately just and accurate estimate of human character.

To know a man’s true character as a Christian and Churchman, you must have some knowledge of him in all the chief relations of life, for it is in these relations that the principles and graces which constitute the real Christian, develop, flower and fruit; and it is here that they furnish a practical demonstration of the power and divinity of our Holy Religion.

It is now twenty-five years since I first made the acquaintance of Major Russell, and learned to call him *Brother* and *Friend*.

In his home-life he was, as elsewhere, thoroughly Christian. A positive character, and having definite opinions he

was not slow or backward in expressing them, and as a result he was much of the time a prominent figure in local and State politics. Whatever may have been the temporary irritations and bitterness engendered, they quickly passed away, and he carried into the Home-sanctuary—the bosom of his family—a spirit free from all malevolent feeling and full of sun-shine.

He was a devout and systematic reader of the Holy Scriptures. Much of his furnishing as an orator for great popular occasions was derived from this source. For a long term of years he was the efficient Superintendent of the St. Paul's Sunday-School M. E. Church South. In this relation his religious character was made manifest, and elicited more confidence and affectionate esteem than ever came to his knowledge in life.

No children of his own, he was a lover of children—of all children and young people, and this love was illustrated in his conscientious and cheerful devotion to the office and work of Sunday-School Superintendent. His absorbing purpose and desire was, to lead those under his teaching to a saving knowledge of Christ. He has often in private said to the writer, "Pray for me and my Sunday-School" and sometimes the request was made with evident religious emotion.

The force and steadiness of his Christian character were noticeable in all the official relations which he sustained to the church. As Trustee, Steward, District Steward, etc., official duties of responsibility and sometimes very delicate nature, devolved upon him. I do not say, that in their discharge he was always free from error, but I do say, that he was always Christianly broad, generous and noble. He was always true and helpful to his pastor and Presiding Elder.

As a Methodist Church-man he was very pronounced. No one who conversed with him on the subject of "Church" and "Religion," was left in doubt as to where he stood. He was, however, first a *Christian*, and then a *Methodist*. He had fellowship for all true Christians, and prayed for and rejoiced in

the prosperity of all branches of the Evangelical Church.

His was what may be justly styled, a vivid religious experience. There was no vagueness in his repentance, faith, justification or renewal. He enjoyed religion. His religion, with its crosses and conflicts, was not a burden but a perpetual joy. He was often heard to say: "The Christian is not only the highest style of man, but also the happiest."

His character as a Christian Patriot, loving his country, in war and in peace, is faintly illustrated in the following incident: In 1890, there was a convocation of Confederate Veterans in the city of St. Augustine. The attendance was large and enthusiastic. The soldiers of the United States Garrison, acted as a guard of honor to the procession as it marched through the principal streets, *en route* for the Opera House where the speaking was to take place. The music for the occasion was furnished through the courtesy of the Commandant of the Post, by a United States brass band. The local camp, Grand Army of the Republic, were invited to join the procession which they did. Major Russell and I walked together. We were both on the program. I to speak first, he to follow. We were both agitated. The occasion was important. Good might be accomplished, and hate might be exorcised, and peace and good will among the people promoted; but a wrong temper indulged, or any allusions to to the past that involved, even by implication, an impeachment of the honor or patriotism of the people of either of the two great sections would issue in much harm. Just before we entered the crowded hall where we were to speak, he turned and took my hand, and with the glint of a tear in his eye, a quivering lip and a choked utterance, said: "Brother, may God help us! Let us do something to-day that shall help on and hasten the just and Christian pascification of our whole country."

That day he was eloquent—his eloquence, the eloquence of broad Christian patriotism.

“To do him any wrong was to beget
A kindness from him, for his heart was rich;
Of such fine mould that if you sowed therein
The seed of Hate, it blossomed Charity.”

* In 1868, Major Russell was elected Superintendent of M. E. Sunday-School St. Paul's Church, to succeed Judge McLean who was engaged in Mission Work.

1878, FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT.

The Sunday-School is in a good condition numbering on roll 75 children, 11 teachers, 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, a Secretary and Treasurer, and a Librarian. The average attendance during the year has been about 60 pupils and 9 teachers. The teachers and pupils with officers are earnest in the work. There is organized and in successful operation, a Missionary Society which has for several successive years assumed and paid the assessment on the church for domestic missions, and on some occasions aided in the other conference collections of the church. During the year we have lost by death two of our scholars, one a sweet little girl of five years, and the other a young man of seventeen, who had all his life been a member of the Sunday-School. We trust both are now learning of Jesus and His mighty love at the foot of His throne on high. Three of the scholars have, during the year, taken upon themselves the vows of the church and given themselves, we trust, to God and His cause. He (closes by saying) the school is entering upon the new year with increased interest and is looking for a good year.

Faternally,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

* An occasional report has been taken from the few records, the *compiler* had access to. These *few* show how faithfully the Sunday-School Superintendent's duties were performed and his devotion to the work of eighteen years.

THIRD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE, 1879.

We have on our roll book the names of 85 pupils, whom we consider permanent and regular attendants except under extraordinary circumstances. There are 12 teachers besides the Superintendent and Pastor, each of whom have a class, that of the Pastor being adult males, and which we think after the heated season shall have passed bids fair to be productive of much good.

The organization of the school consists of a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, a Secretary and Treasurer.

We are organized into a Domestic Missionary Society of which most of the teachers and children are members, and the school from year to year assumes the raising of the amount assessed the church for this purpose. We raise all the funds required for our wants, and are entirely self-sustaining. Thus we give thanks to God that we are enabled to do well. But, Brethren, we are in great humility and regret that we are obliged to report that there are not the conversions in our school among the children that we believe there should be and that our souls long so much to see; and we earnestly ask the church to pray that God the Father may pour out His Spirit upon us and awake the children of the church and draw them to Him in the fulness of a complete salvation.

We regret deeply the manifest want of interest in the work of the Sunday-School on the part of the members of the church in their failure to visit, assist and aid us in our efforts.

We fear that our church as a whole in its polity is largely at fault in not giving more attention to the providing wholesome amusements and diversions in lieu of those it so righteously forbids.

Our Sunday-School is well ordered and disciplined and we have earnestly striven to lead the mind and heart of all to Christ and with a determination to work, wait, trust and pray. Our hope is in our blessed Saviour for a good time yet to come, when we shall behold all the children enter into the church through Him unto salvation.

In Christian Love,

A. J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent.

CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL,

DECEMBER 6, 1880.

The school is now in a much improved condition, both as to numbers in attendance and excellence of spirit and earnestness of desire. For the past few months the average attendance has been small, a direct result of a prolonged and most disagreeable season of weather, and almost universal sickness in the community, especially among the children, bad, however, as the weather has been, a few of the faithful, both of children and teachers, have always been present.

(Gives the number of pupils and Reports of Domestic Missions.)

I deeply regret to report no conversions of the children, and am sometimes ready to despond, but we do feel that we see some good resulting from the Sunday-School work. We have several faithful earnest teachers at work with interesting classes, whom we have known in the Sunday-School since they were taught the catechism orally. These we think are excellent fruits. There are those similarly situated who take an active part in leading the school in music. But, Brethren, we are earnestly praying for the out-pouring of God's Spirit upon the school in the conversion of the young people and children, and ask you all to join us and pray that our hearts may be made speedily to rejoice as our eyes shall see these dear children giving themselves to Jesus and His church.

Fraternally,

A. J. RUSSELL,

Superintendent.

January 2, 1887, Rev. H. H. Kennedy announced the resignation of Brother Russell as Superintendent, and on motion, a committee was appointed to frame resolutions of regret at the necessity of this step, occasioned by repeated necessary absence from the city.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given Brother Russell for his many years of faithful service as Superintendent of St. Paul's Sunday-School, whose resignation was on account of absence from the city.

On one occasion Major Russell was presented with a solid "Silver Goblet" by the Sunday-School.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a regular session of the Sunday-School of St. Paul's M. E. Church South, held April 28, 1876, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted and publication requested:

WHEREAS, It hath pleased Almighty God our Heavenly Father, to visit our school with the presence of Death, and remove from among our midst one of our most earnest, energetic, cheerful and useful teachers from her earthly labors and trials to an eternal and blissful peace and joy, and though we know and feel that it behooves us to bow with perfect submission to His holy will, knowing He doeth all things well and for the ultimate good of them that love Him, yet we cannot refrain from expressing our deep grief at our loss, and uttering our feeble appreciation of her great worth in our midst as a Christian, in her hearty work in the church and the Sunday-School, and in all her social and domestic relations setting forth the beautiful fruits of Christianity in them all; truly a bright, useful and happy friend and teacher has gone from our midst, and yet we need not grieve as those who have not the hope which the Gospel of Jesus begets in the heart, for we know our loss is her great gain.

Therefore be it Resolved, That in the death of Sister Eliza S. Skinner, we have lost a dear friend, our school an energetic and earnest teacher, and the church a useful and exemplary member.

2. That we will ever cherish most fondly her memory, and prize her example as worthy to be imitated.

3. That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her bereaved husband and her dear little children, and that we will earnestly pray our Father in

Heaven to sustain and uphold them by His Almighty power and console them by the fullness of the riches of His grace.

4. That our Secretary be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family, and to request the city papers to publish the same.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
Superintendent.

MRS. W. B. CLARKSON'S OBSEQUIES.

FEBRUARY 22, 1888.

In concluding his remarks, Rev. Mr. Kennedy called upon Major A. J. Russell who had known the deceased almost since her infancy, to say a few words.

In his first sentence Major Russell displayed the deep emotion which he felt. As soon as he could control himself, he referred in feeling and eloquent terms to incidents in the life of her who had connected herself with the Sunday-School in her earliest childhood days when he was Superintendent, and said it was the noble attributes of mind and heart at all times displayed by the deceased that had served to soften his heart and win him from the contemplation of worldly affairs. Major Russell paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the deceased and by his feeling and impressive manner, moved many to tears whose eyes were long unused to weeping.

“Oh, do not say that they are lost
Whom we behold no more;
They simply have the ocean crossed,
And gained the other shore.
That friend who went to God still lives,
Our souls and hearts to thrill;
God gives forever when he gives—
The loved are living still.

They have their wondering thoughts in Heaven
As we have wonderings here,
But there a clearer view is given
Of those they hold so dear.
With them we hold a tender place;
They think of us until,
Unveiled, we see them face to face—
The loved are living still.”

In 1881, he was elected a delegate to the District Conference.

His report closed thus: "We are praying and looking for much success this church year; we earnestly ask you to join us in our prayers."
Fraternally,

A. J. RUSSELL.

(Ordered engrosed by the Conference.)

OFFICIAL ROLL, QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

*For many years Major Russell was a Steward of the Church; a Trustee of St. Pauls; a Trustee of St. Augsutine, and District Steward.

MRS. A. J. RUSSELL,

DEAR SISTER: Permit me to pay a brief tribute to the memory of your dear departed husband.

My acquaintance with Major Russell, though not of long duration was both fortunate and delightful. He was one of the few *truly great men* I have ever known. As an orator I do not know that I have ever known his superior, if indeed his equal. His was a natural flow of the purest English I almost ever heard ripple from human lips, while added to this was an inevitable grace of gesture, and an earnestness, both in speech and manner, that made one think of inspiration. A number of years ago while I was conducting a meeting in Bronson, Florida, I was much shocked by learning of a parody on the Lord's Prayer. Seeing the Major in the congregation I told him of the blasphemy, and asked him to reprove those daring agents of satan. After a few moments of thought, the good man arose and made a speech that is worthy to be recorded among the best efforts of the kind ever made. There was no more of such sacrilege during the meeting. To sum up what I may truthfully say of your husband, I would remark, he was a born orator, and best of all, a devout and humble follower of the Christ he loved so well, and trusted with the simple faith of a little child.

Your Brother,

ROBERT A SMITH,
Evangelist, Dalton, Ga.

SUNDAY LAW.

MAY 2, 1882.

(A mass meeting of the supporters at Trinity M. E. C., Sunday night, addresses by Judge Randall, Judge McLean, Judge Archibald, Major Russell and Judge Patterson.

At the conclusion of Judge Patterson's remarks Judge Randall rose, and with a twinkle of humor in his eye, said that he would now introduce to the audience a comparative stranger—one who was known to some of

* It is impossible to give the full reports, because so few records of Church or Sunday School have been kept, or at least can be found.

them, however, as Major Russell. As a rippling smile went round, the Major said:

"I believe in short, warm, pungent and pithy speeches, and was glad when I was informed that the speakers would be confined to ten minutes each. A noted enthusiast once said, "*Vox populi, vox Dei*"—the voice of the people is the voice of God. While I am not ready to accept this utterance as truth, I am prepared to believe that the voice of such an assemblage as this would be the voice of God upon this momentous subject. It is strange that in this nineteenth century we should be called upon to advocate Sabbath laws; this, however, we find absolutely essential. The saloon-keepers have given notice that they will be avenged at the next election, even if they have to raise from five to seven thousand dollars to accomplish it.

Our honored Mayor deserves immortal praise for fearlessly performing his duty in spite of all of the influence brought to bear to persuade him otherwise. In all trying ordeals through which men are at times called upon to pass, great strength is given them by an additional strong arm. This enthusiastic and moral support given by us will wonderfully encourage, as well as help strengthen, the purpose of our worthy magistrate.

As the day of the last election approached, our honored Mayor began to tremble for the result. Those opposed to the Sabbath observance endeavored to have him pledge himself in their favor. To these he replied: 'I purpose enforcing the law, and when our synagogue is completed I will keep two Sabbaths, the Sabbath of the Hebrew and the Sabbath of the Christian.' The God of Nations, as well as the people, has endorsed him."

The Major here portrayed the effects of a Sunday's debauch, which sent many a man to his employment Monday morning unfit for his labor. He also showed that God's law, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy," was in accordance with reason, right living, and even economy; and then called the attention of the people to the fact that no opposition was made to the closing of our markets on the Sabbath. "For sanitary rea-

sons, during the summer season, we are obliged to purchase our meat (one of the necessities of life) before 12 o'clock noon. These laws are considered just, right, necessary; but when we object to the opening of liquor saloons and places of business on the Sabbath day, those affected personally cry out, "The law is too rigid!"

I have been informed that the Councilmen who proposed to modify our Sabbath laws, really intended to make them more stringent, so as to include the livery stables. If this be true, I endorse it, for our fair city has won for itself, during the past year, a glorious name, and this will help her to win a greater. There has been no name published more widely than that of Mayor Dzialynski, the honest Israelite. The last year's record has proved that it is profitable to keep the Sabbath holy."

APRIL 10, 1883.

TEMPERANCE JUBILEE.

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING AT TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

Major A. J. Russell opened his remarks by saying that he was not so much disposed to rejoice in the discomfiture of his foes, as in the success of his friends, and of the great cause around which they gathered that our State had the pleasure of throwing from her shoulders and her heart the damning curse of the liquor traffic, and removing temptation from all classes of our citizenship.

The speaker satirized the high confidence of the liquor men, reviewed their organized efforts all over the country, and the probable results of their possible success.

He stated that not only the world but the church of the living God was moving in the great matter. He testified from personal experience to the strength of the temperance sentiment of the State, which was so much stronger than party feeling that Legislators dared not return to their constituents with the unfavorable vote on this question. The speaker was in favor

of total prohibition, and rejoiced that rum had been remanded to its proper place.

The plan of buying up the votes of the colored people on this question had failed. Their preachers had become living evangels against it and had foiled the plan. The question of "fresh license" must be investigated by the lawyers and the law must not be evaded by such a trick. Major Russell closed with an eloquent peroration of congratulations to everybody, including the rum-sellers, whom he congratulated upon the fact that the law had driven them from a disgraceful calling.

THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY—1878.

HOW JACKSONVILLE CELEBRATED IT.

A parade of the artillery company was a very creditable exhibition. The most interesting feature of the parade—to the company at least—was the presentation of a beautiful United States flag, made and contributed by ladies of the city. A large throng gathered at the Hotel Windsor to witness the ceremony. Shortly after five o'clock the procession stopped at the hotel and wheeled into battery. Major A. J. Russell, carrying the flag, stepped down upon the pavement in front of the ranks and presented the banner, with the following remarks:

Soldiers of the First Artillery:

I am honored to-day, much beyond my deserts, in being deputed by the ladies to present you this rich gift, a beautiful national standard of colors—rich in more than one point, in that it is a universal symbol of hope to the oppressed of every clime and nation, giving life, freedom and citizenship to all; and richer still in that, though it waved for a short period amid the dark smoke and carnage of a fratricidal war, it to-day waves again over a perfect, disenthralled, free union of States made stronger and wiser by sad experience; and richer still in that through it our nation was the first of the nations of the earth to set forth the fact of the universal brotherhood of man; and yet richer still to you to-day, because it is the free-will offering of woman, expressive of her trust in and admiration of your honor and courage. (Applause.)

Long may it unfurl its folds over your gallant corps in piping times of peace and joyous success. But should grim-visaged war demand your services in behalf of your State or country, then may it be seen waving only where honor calls loudest and where courage is needed most—on the front line, amid the thickest of the fray.

Captain Wilson and gentlemen—I congratulate you to-day upon your soldiery appearance and carriage. I cannot refrain from referring to one most significant fact in connection with your company. Its members are of those who wore the blue and those who wore the gray in our country's great struggle. (Applause.) They have, I trust and believe, forever laid down their arms for a like cause, and are to-day united in one color under one flag, seeking only to maintain a whole country's integrity. The God of Nations be fervently praised for so rich a blessing.

Receive this beautiful flag, and with it the best wishes of your lady friends, together with my own hearty wishes for your continuous success and happiness.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 4, 1887.

MAIDEN, MUSIC, MILITARY AND MECHANICS—THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES
REPRESENTED BY YOUNG LADIES—GRAND PROCESSION.

After Senator Mallory's address, Major Burbridge then introduced the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Major A. J. Russell, who said:

My Countrymen: I apprehend that if the spirit of Jefferson were permitted to hover in conscious proximity to this nation to-day, he would be overwhelmed with astonishment at finding so glorious an outcome of the efforts of himself and his *confrères* when they assembled to assert the rights of man. I feel glad to-day that I am able to announce as my own faith and to say to you that the hand of God, the great mover of nations, had been kindling the fires of liberty in the hearts of the people preparatory to the great step they finally took, which has conferred such blessing upon you and me; so that

over a year before the Declaration of Independence made by the Congress of the United States was declared, a band of Independents had met in the old city of South Carolina, on the 20th of May, 1775, and had declared that they were free and independent of all governments on the earth, except their own; and I am requested to-day to by an old "tar-heel," for whom I have the greatest respect, to proceed the Declaration of Independence by the Declaration of the Mecklenbergers of North Carolina and I beg you will indulge me while I read it.

The Major then proceeded to read the remarkable document to which he had called attention. The boldness of its diction, and the similarity it has to the other Declaration which had its birth more than a year afterwards, were very striking. It was one of those thunder-mutterings before the storm broke, of which, no doubt there were many more than history ever recorded.

The Declaration of Independence was then listened to by a quiet and attentive audience.

Only short extracts of the speeches were reported.

The corner-stone of the new Methodist Church at Altoona was laid on Friday, Sept. 2, 1887. Rev. DePass of Sanford and Hon. A. J. Russell of Jacksonville participated in the exercises.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1884— TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

Rev. Mr. Snyder introduced Major A. J. Russell. Major Russell commenced by referring to the reverence of the Romans and Greeks for their dead, which he dwelt on for a short time. He then said he had come to talk of the worth of a man who was born 161 years ago in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He likened George Washington to St. John the Baptist when he went out in the wilderness, and said he believed Washington was the chosen instrument of God to bring forth this country and make it one above all others. He referred to the wonderful ingenuity of the American people and said that had this

government been governed as those of the old world, barring England, (and here he paid a glowing tribute to the mother country as clinging to America, also to Queen Victoria for her noble womanhood) the liberty of thought would not have existed, nor would the advancement of the country been so fast. He said, that, during the 120 years this country had accomplished and given more to the world than all of the rest of the world from time immemorial. All the progress of the old world was largely based on the progress of this young country.

The 22d of February, he said, was a day when there should be a stop to all pursuits and remember George Washington and remember *Him* who selected him as a leader of the American forces.

On motion a rising vote of thanks to Major Russell was then taken.

EULOGY FOR THEIR DECEASED BROTHERS OF THE ORDER OF ELKS—MEMORIAL SERVICES.

The services were held at Park Opera House, Dec. 24th, 1894. Major A. J. Russell delivered a very stirring and eloquent address upon the Order and its virtues and noble qualities of the deceased brothers.

Major A. J. Russell, in prefacing his remarks, explained that he had been called at the eleventh hour and he craved the patience and sympathy of his hearers.

He spoke first of the sacredness of memorial days, how important it was that nations as well as communities, should keep the memories of their departed ones green and fresh.

He said that *nations were recognized by the degree in which they kept this sacred duty*. He spoke feelingly of the three deceased members of the order. He had met Mr. Granger in February, 1859, on a coastwise vessel, both of them being on their way to Florida, and the speaker eulogized the business mind and spirit of the deceased, as he then recognized and felt it.

He paid a glowing tribute to the memories of Dr. Crowley and C. J. H. Summers, and said their brothers would bear them in mind for many years, through the kindly influence of their lodge sympathies and feelings.

Secret societies were then spoken of, and the amount of good accomplished. The speaker said that humanity as a rule, was *too* ready to forget the call of the individual man, but that secret societies and the ties formed created a bond that was seldom broken, and that the good done by societies of this kind could never be overestimated.

Major Russell closed his address by alluding to the Masonic Lodge

and its long lease of life under varying vicissitudes, claiming that all the other societies sprung from it as the parent.

He told the beautiful allegory of an old Arab sheik, who, on being told by an angel visitant that his name was not on the roll of those who loved God, asked that it might be put down as one who loved his fellow-man. At the next visit of the angel the book was shown him and his name led the rest.

“For he who loves his fellow-man,” eloquently said the speaker, “must love his God.”

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Daniel Memorial Orphanage Society Major A. J. Russell made a most appropriate address, a gem in every respect. Reported by the

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Major A. J. Russell was one of the incorporators of St. Luke's Hospital.

MAY, 1776.

Major Russell was elected a Representative to the National Division, Sons of Temperance.

APRIL 26, 1878.

Annual Meeting of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, Major A. J. Russell was chosen Grand Chaplain.

JANUARY 16, 1895.

Grand Lodge of Sons of Temperance elected Major Russell delegate to the National Temperance Division of North America.

DUVAL DIVISION NO. 1, SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

It is with profound sorrow that we are called upon to record the death of one so long identified *with our cause*, and so prominent in the councils of our order, as was our deceased brother Albert J. Russell.

His high character, commanding talents and exemplary conduct at once challenged the admiration, respect and love of all with whom he came in contact.

Richly dowered by nature with the most superb gifts, his eloquent voice was always raised in behalf of the right and in furtherance of the claims of humanity.

Therefore be it Resolved, That in the death of brother Albert J. Russell, the State and community have lost an able, upright and conscientious citizen, and Duval Division and Sons of Temperance a loyal and faithful member whose zeal and devotion to the cause of temperance was abundantly attested throughout his long, useful and active connection with our order.

Resolved, That while we mourn the death of our brother, we realize that “Our loss is his gain,” and bow in humble submission to the will of the Great Patriarch above who “Doeth all things well.”

CHAPTER IX.

POSSIBILITIES OF FLORIDA.

The first great opportunity for manufacturing enterprise afforded by the city of Jacksonville, is cotton. Some two or three years since the official report of the Department of Agriculture at Washington called attention to the fact that Florida produced one-sixth of the entire world's crop of long staple cotton (Sea Island.) A factory established to utilize this product, would pay well in returns to the stockholder; not that I would suggest the making of cloth of any kind—the short staple product will meet that opportunity plenteously—but the making of thread carefully spun to the finest possible point by American machinery, and in that state sold to the lace, fine lace, producing countries of Europe.

Now let us see how this appears in development. As the cultivation of the staple now stands it is only he who grows one bale or more, who can reach the real cotton market with his produce, for by an iron rule the marketable quantity must be a bale or more. Now, it is a fact that large arrears of cleared, arable land is left uncultivated, paying nothing but taxes, and these are paid by the party least able to pay, because of the non-use of much of his land.

Such a factory or factories established as have been referred to, and the fact becoming known that the poor and small farmer can put his half acre, or one acre or more to long cotton, and cultivate it, and when harvest time comes, gather his crop from the boll, can carry it to the door of his factory and turn it into cash, without paying a required profit to two or three middlemen, it is easily seen how many of this deserving class of men will plant land hitherto useless because not

cultivated, and centre the business of their products in the factory and this city.

This is, however, only one of the business interests growing out of such an enterprise. This increase of cultivation of the fibre, on a small scale by many, would necessitate ginning machinery at the mill, thus adding to its profits. Again, it would concentrate large quantities of cotton seed, where the cotton is sold. This would necessitate the annexing of oil and press machinery, producing cotton seed oil, for which there is so large a demand, and the residue of cotton seed cake is an excellent feed for cattle; and ground, an excellent fertilizer.

The next of the products of Florida presenting itself to my mind, as inviting manufacturing enterprises, are some of the hard woods, so abundant in the State, as well as the pine and cypress.

We are paying out tens of thousands of dollars every year into the coffers of other States of the Union for articles of every day use, while we may easily enter into remarkable competition with them in the supply furnished other States. Among these articles are axe-helves, spokes, felloes and singletrees, which can be made of the best and most tenacious of the hickories, commonly called the white hickory. No one acquainted with this wood will hesitate a moment to affirm that the Florida white hickory is the best in this country, easily riven, because of its unusually straight grain, a pure white, and exceedingly tough, easy of access and abundant. Thus it will be readily seen that the manufacture of these articles here will afford an exceedingly fine and profitable business. The cost of the hickory will be 75 per cent. less than it is where the articles are now manufactured, and shipped all over the country. As soon as the articles made from the Florida hickory shall become known, the name and quality will sell them the country over.

White oak next attracts our attention—a wood with which the hammocks of the Peninsula abound, large trees with trunks

extending high up before the branches or limbs are reached, tough and easily worked when seasoned. This wood is of great value in the manufacture of furniture, wainscoting for buildings, in the construction of stairways, in the making of wagons, carts and drays.

We are importing large quantities of this material from the North of a decidedly inferior quality and very brittle, at a cost of from thirty to forty dollars per thousand in the rough sawn boards, ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. It can be produced in this State f. o. b. cars at eighteen and twenty dollars per thousand.

A factory with suitable machinery to prepare this wood for the builder of stairways, and the maker of carts, etc., will open a business enterprise, not only in supplying our own demands, but the neighboring States; and just here I will remark the West Indies, Mexico and Central America are all inviting markets for all such material as mentioned above, and to which countries water transportation from our western coast is the easiest, shortest and at the cheapest possible cost.

The gum tree affords the best possible material for hubs of wheels, and being bored through for the axle, is rendered insusceptible to checking or cracking, and is remarkably durable. The heart of the much maligned black jack (black oak) is a beautiful wood, resembling ebony, with a live gloss when nicely worked, and would be a beautiful and novel embossment and finish to fine furniture. The red bay is a hard and beautiful, wood of the mahogany hue, and is susceptible of a very fine polish. In a word, there is no part of our broad national domain that furnishes such a variety and quality of hard woods for manufacturing purposes as are abundantly found in Florida.

I scarcely need write of the pine; almost everybody is familiar with it and the great lumbering industry it affords. There are trackless virgin forests of it still inviting the manufacturing enterprise of the capitalist. The cypress is one of the

most inviting woods we now have, in view of present demands —of it a fine article of sashes, doors and blinds can be made. Water buckets of a superior quality, tubs of great durability, and many other household necessities can be manufactured from it. It is cheaper than the white cedar, the juniper and other woods of which these articles are now made in the manufacturing centres, but the chief present use of the cypress is its manufacture of shingles, of which it makes the very best known to the world.

I knew of a mill of excellent character and large capacity that received an order for 4,000,000 from a single house in the city of New York, and another from a Southern city for 100,000 per day as long as they could be made ; a mistake was made in the location of a mill ; the abundance of the trees doubtless led to location, but a long absence of rain emptied the streams, and it was impossible to get the trees after being felled, to the mill, for months. Of course, there was a failure to fill orders. No such difficulty can occur in this vicinity ; our river and abundant large creeks will always furnish the float for the logs, and our railroads transportation, so that a large and well established mill of this kind would prove a fortune in the hands of him or them who would manage it well ; the demand is universal and will continue as long as human habitations shall continue and mankind seeks a shelter.

That the cultivation of sugar cane is on the increase and much stimulated is beyond cavil or doubt. Whether this is the result of the bounty upon sugar, or the fact that the recent ventures on a large scale have demonstrated the facts of profit and the adaptibility of the soil to its growth more fully than heretofore, does not concern this writing as much as what can be done with it after it is grown.

A potent stimulant to its cultivation is a ready and easy market. A refinery in this city would at once create this and make many fields wave with the blade of the cane, and set to work many a sugar mill and evaporator in making the crude

brown sugar ; or the refinery might as an adjunct, grind the cane and produce the crude sugar, and thus invite the cane to their own enterprise by the carload. The ribbon cane which took the prize over all other exhibits of the kind at Atlanta during the Southern Exposition, was grown within a mile of this city—one hundred cane taken from an ordinary “patch”—excelled that from Louisiana, Georgia and other States, and bore off the prize and diploma, and its success was because the greater amount of saccharine matter it contained. The establishment of a refinery would stimulate farmers to plant more largely, and greater crops would result. The waste acreage now in Duval, Baker, Bradford and Nassau counties would begin to yield a crop which could be readily converted into cash at a profitable return.

Nearly every acre of the low flat lands of these counties referred to in considering the refinery for sugar, is naturally to the growth and thrift of rice, (swamp seed.) Sour, wet land is just the land for the rice. The upland rice of Florida has been cleaned and prepared for the market by some of the best and oldest rice mills in Charleston, S. C. and pronounced by those experts in rice as very excellent. The trouble in the way of its cultivation has been the cost of transportation to so great a distance as Charleston or Savannah, and the commissions and toll. But for these, to-day would have seen waiving fields of rice enriching those who grew it, to a moderate extent at least. The writer of this article grew the rice with the aid of one laborer, mainly, on a piece of land within the speed ring of the old fair grounds near this city, which took the premium at Atlanta during the Exposition held there in 1887, and it was pronounced magnificent by all who saw it who were capable of judging.

Now, a rice mill established in this city, the centre of railroad and river steamer transportation, would as soon as its erection is begun, start the planting of rice extensively, and there is no surer, or more profitable enterprise than is a proper-

ly managed rice mill of the right kind, and it offers a splendid investment for capital.

A sash, blind and door factory, of a proper type well supplied with the latest improved machinery to use our excellent cypress lumber, will meet a long felt want in Jacksonville and vicinity ; indeed, all through the eastern and southern part of the State. West Florida is favored with an excellent factory of the kind, situated at Bagdad, utilizing the juniper of that section as well as the cypress, and no better article is furnished the builder than this establishment supplies, and its patronage now extends into Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. Now, what has been done at Bagdad, in Santa Rosa county, can be more easily done in Jacksonville, because of situation, demand, and public enterprise ; such a sash factory as described, engaged in the making of sash of all sizes, regular and irregular, and blinds to suit ; doors of odd sizes and the ordinary mantles for fireplaces, ballusters, piazzas, and porch columns, on a large scale, offer inducements to the capitalist, and is much needed.

Thousands of pounds of hides are shipped from this State monthly. There should be a tannery of large capacity, embracing all the improvements, established at or near Jacksonville, where so many branches and creeks afford an abundance of water, and where there are so many sources of tannin or tanic acid at hand, the most productive of which, and yielding the greatest quantity, is the saw palmetto. A tannery, with everything required of nature at hand in abundance, with an ever coming supply of the crude material, the hide, nothing can be surer than the profitable yield of a tannery.

The next enterprise calling upon our attention is a general canning establishment to utilize our surplus crops of vegetables, berries, fruits, and our incalculable supply of fish and oysters. The writer, acquainted with all the resources of our wonderful State, can conceive of nothing so important, and presenting such utility and blessing, as well as great profit to the man or men who shall engage in such an enterprise. Ride

through South Florida and gaze on every hand and you will see piles on piles of, and scattered broad cast, empty cans—cans upon cans—showing conclusively the demand for canned goods. In every grocery store the long rows of canned goods are the most conspicuous part of the stock.

Year after year, when our season has passed for the demand at the North for early vegetables, the remainder of the crop is large, and in most cases the best of the crop, and whole fields are lost to the planter, the consumer and to business enterprise. With fruits, tropical, semi-tropical, as well as those of the temperate zone, viz: peach, pear, plum; with vegetables of all kinds in abundance, with oysters whose beds are commensurate with the coast and its inlets; shrimp and fish, what is to hinder a large canning establishment, with its branches, from doing a splendid business?

The next and very important product of the State, inviting the investment of capital in manufacturing, is our varied fibre-yielding plants, prominent among which are the bear grass, the agave, the wild jute and the hemp. In giving these I use the common name. The bear grass is of spontaneous growth all over the State and when properly handled produces a very strong and fine fibre, valuable in manufactures and trade. Simple machinery for separating the fibre from the outer covering would pay, and ready sale would be found for it in manufactories of certain articles.

The same may be said of the agave plant, with the addition of the fact that it yields much more in fibre. In many ways the people of the South, as in life-long habit, are paying out money every day enriching other States and impoverishing our own, in purchasing articles of necessity, instead of receiving money in return for our raw material, prepared for the machinery of the manufacturer.

The wild jute yields abundantly a fine and excellent fibre. The writer has seen on exhibition in the State Fairs held some years back near this city, specimens a yard or more long,

white as unbleached flax and almost as fine as silk thread, and of remarkable strength, and that prepared in the crudest way, without proper machinery. This wild jute grows everywhere that cultivation has been done, and for the cutting at the proper time and properly treated yields largely a fibre thread for which the cotton States are paying annually hundreds of thousands of dollars in the way of bagging for their snowy fleece. No matter whether the price of cotton is high or low, the planter must have his jute bagging. Every farmer who plants cotton will call to mind the recent effort to form a trust or combine, among the importers and manufacturers of East Indian jute bagging material to fix a high and arbitrary price upon it; also the devices resorted to by the farmers to resist this unjust dealing; how cotton cloth was manufactured by some of our Southern factories to meet the necessity; how there was quite a sensation created when it was said that a good article of bagging could be made of our abundant long leaf pine straw.

But while these efforts on the part of the planter served to teach the avaricious dealer and manufacturer that their oppression would be resented, it was a delusion. A bale of cotton did not look like a bale of cotton, done up in cotton cloth or pine straw trimmings, to the planter himself, the factor at the shipping ports, or to the marts and manufactories of the old world.

The fatal feature of these attempted substitutes was that the material of which they were made would not stand the pull of the hook in the hands of the stalwart wharf hand, or the vigorous handling in the loading and unloading. The farmer universally went back to the jute bagging.

Now, while India and Egypt are our competitors in producing cotton, why should we pay tribute to them in buying our bagging material, when nature lavishly supplies the crude material ready for our manipulation right at our door? Here is certainly a demand that invites a manufacturing enterprise

in our midst, and capital invested would pay handsome returns.

The soil in many, if not in all the counties in Florida, is naturally adapted to the growth of the various hemp-producing plants; experiments have been made and the results are highly satisfactory. Let manufactories be started to use up this material, and it will be seen how quickly the lands of Florida will be made to yield wealth; and employment will be created for thousands in the rural districts, as well as the cities and towns converted into manufacturing centers.

Another more than simply abundant product, spontaneous and perennial, though not strictly a fibre plant, demands our attention in this connection, and that is the saw palmetto leaf, a pulp from which has been successfully prepared and shipped in that state to the bank note paper and parchment paper makers, and it is said to make the strongest and most durable papers for these purposes known to the art. But it is for a more commonplace use that I would call particular attention. Prepared by proper machinery and curled and twisted it makes the best, healthiest and cheapest mattress in the world, and once used will be preferred to moss, split shuck or excelsior. Those familiar with these mattresses know that when compressed or flattened by use, a few hours exposure to the sun will restore them to their elastic state. The main feature, however, recommending them is their perfect healthfulness, and their cheapness. The best proof of the latter is the importation from Africa, as raw material, under our present discriminating tariff, this very leaf for mattress-making; but I am informed by a fellow-citizen, who has thoroughly investigated the business, that even in the face of this competition, mattresses can be made here and shipped to New York and sold cheaper than they can make them there, and at remunerative prices. Here is certainly an inviting opportunity to the capitalist and manufacturer.

We have tried to place before all enquirers what the op-

portunities are for manufacturing enterprise in our spirited city, and what there is of raw material in the State that may be utilized in the work.

We firmly believe that our State in her natural and almost entirely unique products, affords better and more complete openings for manufacturing enterprises than almost any other of the States. We have a climate of such admirable character that work may be done every month in the year and every day in the month, on the farm or in the grove, in the factory and in the shop. With such wonderful advantages, Florida should not be the least among the manufacturing States of the South.

A. J. R.

MIDDLE FLORIDA.

Written for Industrial Florida.

*Florida presents to the home-seeker a greater variety of conditions and adaptabilities than any other State in the Union, if not on the American continent. We mean by this difference in climatic conditions, soil, social privileges, products and industrial opportunities.

In the counties on our northern boundary, from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Perdido river on the extreme west, a stretch of about four hundred and twelve miles, we have a degree of temperature adapted to the growth of grain, the hardier fruits, and vegetables, and to remind us that we have a great stretch of country north, east and west of us, where the snowflake seems to delight to sport in the keen winds, and the icicle exhibits its frozen pendants in brilliant sheen, so that the hoar frost visits us now and then, and sometimes, as the frost king blows a stronger blast our way, there comes some ice too, but our bright, warm and genial sun soon dispels it all, and drives him back to his hyperborean domain.

*Written November 25, 1895. Last article for the Press.

All through the central peninsular stretch, north and south, there is a vast extent of arable land and fertile soil, producing the long staple fleecy lint, the sugar cane, market truck, and fruits also of the hardier nature and the semi-tropical, and where health reigns supreme, and man can find a home, where everything around it yields bountifully to the touch of honest industry, and he can live easier than in any State of our great country, and yet, Florida recognizes the great divine decree "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," and expects the soil to be faithfully tilled and due economy to be practiced on every hand, and as a result, independence in the highest degree will grace and make happy his home.

Below this we reach down to the southernmost keys on the Florida Straits, bounded on either hand by the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. Here the stranger's gaze is met by entirely new and beautiful scenes of growth, plants, fruits and products too numerous to mention in this article; so new to the tourist from other States that amazement and delight takes possession of him, so that for three hundred and forty miles south of Jacksonville, the chief city of the State, the "iron horse" is taking thousands to revel in the wondrous beauties and new scenery. All along the coast of the mighty ocean, new wild flowers, new foliage clothing, new trees, new birds singing new songs, while all is bright, genial, and breathing the very essence of delightful surroundings. Here the cocoanut, the banana, the sugar apple, the pineapple, the sappadillo, and many other fruits of such a clime are being grown abundantly, and while all other parts of the country are wrapped in the dark brown of the winter hue, these people are feasting on green crisp vegetables. Yes, Florida can furnish thousands yet with homes in a land where the industrious toiler can work on his farm every day in the year, except God's holy day, and the Southern people are wont to keep that for holy rest of both mind and body in order to improve more thoroughly the incessant secular opportunity for toil and honest labor.

It is of that portion of our fair State called by all our people Middle Florida that we most desire to write just now. It is the great agricultural section of the State, and is composed chiefly of the counties lying between the Appalachicola River on the west, and the Suwannee on the east—which are Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Madison. The writer looking out from the roof of the capitol building, in Tallahassee, a beautiful May morning, turning to every point of the compass taking in the delightful picturesque scene, had forced upon his mind the thought that it did seem as though the Great Creator was just closing His mighty work here on the foot of the continent, and looking upon it, and seeing it was very good, laid His benedictive hand upon it, and lifting it again left its impress there. It is as a section of the State singularly beautiful; true, there is no mountainous angularity about it, but an undulation as pretty as the sweetest poetry, and as a favored land, it is altogether lovely; its hills and valleys, when considered as the work of the Great Creator, leads the mind and soul to a sweet meditation of God's goodness to the children of men. This, however, is of its beauty. We desire to write specially of its desirability for homes as a real agricultural country, and above all other parts of Florida for that purpose. The soil is underlaid by a stiff red clay, near the surface. It is easy of culture and yields bountifully to the plow and hoe. Its products are short staple cotton, tobacco—either for cigars or chewing tobacco—corn, rye, oats and all the smaller crops necessary to domestic purposes, as well as all kinds of stock. Recent experiments have shown that in Leon county especially the soil is adapted to the growth of both kinds of tobacco as a well paying result, so that an industrious farmer, with a well selected forty acre farm, well tilled, is assured of a comfortable living and will not be stressed in any way. Beside the crops mentioned above, this beautiful section of the State produces the pea; the peach; the fig, in several varieties; the grape family is at home, while the berries conspire to add delightfully to

the whole. The lakes and streams abound in the most excellent fish, and the smaller game is abundant. No mortal can wish to live in a more beautiful or fertile country, with as grandly glorious a climate, than is this God-given Middle Florida section, from its eastern to its western boundary, contiguous as it is to the Gulf. It is always fanned by the winds coming from the bosom of the Gulf, on the shores of which are to be found as healthful, desirable seaside resorts as can be found anywhere. so far as nature's work is concerned, only waiting the work of art to add elegance and comfort to the natural conditions that are found there; and this demand will soon be imperative. In addition to climate, soil, fertility and profit, there is another condition over and above all, a people intelligent, unostentatious, thoroughly hospitable and kind, and purely a Christian people already established and at home.

This section of our blessed State with all its inviting conditions stands waiting the coming of a thrifty immigration from our sister States, and our people stand ready to extend a welcome with warm hearts, instructive tongues and generous sympathy.

Its glorious hills and beautiful valleys should teem with green and growing crops; its harvest times, on every hill and in every valley, should be times of great joy and thanksgiving, for the bountiful yield of the soil to a genuine industry, and Middle Florida would become, as in the past, a tower of strength; a garden of prosperity and a home of delight, to a happy thriving population.

A. J. R.

FLORIDA'S GREAT RIVER.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., November 24, 1895.

To the Editor of the Times-Union:

The historic "Welaka" river, the modern St. Johns, is to the stranger one of the most interesting rivers on the American continent, because, unlike any other, it is unique in every

particular, which goes to make up a river. Finding its source in the far south, it flows northward for nearly all of its length, until reaching the metropolis of Florida, it turns eastward, and pours its great volume of waters into the briny deep. This fact seems the more strange since the universal opinion prevails, that, the extreme south is low and flat, and would leave the impression that it ran uphill, as it cuts its way through the much higher land of our northern boundary. This, however, is a minor point of interest, compared to the weird and wild appearance it presents to the eye of the stranger as first he beholds it, the somber cypress, almost awaking superstition, the swamp hickory, with its peculiar foliage and small but rich, sweet nut, upon which the far-famed "Razor-Back Hog" alike with the beautiful gray squirrel feast in profound silence, but doubtless with voracious appetite delighted. But a large part of the shores on the other hand convey an idea of vastness of expanse, because, impenetrable to the eye. This somber scene is relieved by the stately palmetto in royal mien, on which are often festooned from tree to tree the wild convolvuli, and when seen in the early morn, as the palatial steamers, the City of Jacksonville and the DeBary of the famous Clyde line, of sea-going and river steamers, swiftly make their way up and down the majestic stream, they turn their beautiful cup-shaped flowers, white as snow, toward the coming king of day, all sparkling with dewdrops so refreshing.

The broad savannahs that occasionally lay along, almost, apparently, on the level of the river itself. On these queer formations abound the wild flowers of every hue, shape and botanical order, making one vast picture framed in the surrounding forests, enlivened all over with birds of every hue and sweet song, while the strong, green growths upon them present a tropical vigor of life and growth which is really an inspiration to health and strength.

Such is but a poor picture of this grand and wonderful

river, as the writer saw it for the hundredth time this week, why do not the tourists take this trip when bound from the North to our fair, cheering clime, furnishing, as it does, so complete a rest and recuperation after so long a travel. The wild, strange scenery from the river hotels, the quiet and home-like comfort of the saloon and state-room, the rich repast spread in the very best style, and in abundance, make traveling a rest and a delight.

As the whole trip in all its features came rolling in our minds, we could not prevent (nor did we desire to do so) the thought that our God had let no opportunity pass to bless our native land in every possible way; and after giving us every possible condition of climate and soil, fitted for the hardier growths of food, luxuries and trade, he gave us this beautiful peninsular land as a place of rest to the more weary of the hyperborean regions; a garden of beautiful flowers and delicious fruits, as a place of comfort, restitution and sequent joys.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

SOUTHERN WOMANHOOD.

Editors, *Echo of the South*:

Your correspondent rejoices that so excellent a journal has been launched upon the sea of journalism in the interest of the noble, patriotic, self-sacrificing and yet uncomplaining women of the South, while bearing and suffering their full share in the struggle made by the South for constitutional government and right.

Future historians will award the mead of immortal praise due them, and array them among the noble nations of old Greece and Rome simply to illustrate the superexcellence of the Southern mothers, wives and daughters. A sublimer womanhood has never been reached, a truer sacrifice has never been more patiently borne; no more complete system of device to aid in the great struggle, to encourage our brave soldiers, or to win a victory, than that made by these Southern-American

women. The future poet will crown them in sweetest song; the romancer will seek the realm of her being, from which to tell the sweetest, strongest and most thrilling tales, and noble, chivalrous manhood everywhere will uncover and stand in adoration of such a womanhood; of this must be born men and women worthy of American citizenship, those who will honor God, country and their race; let their heroism, their fidelity, their purity be cherished in mind, heart and soul till time shall be no more. There are those who followed the braves of our Southland, and were upon the fields where the wounded lay in their agony; in the hospitals beside the cot, and who can tell of the comfort ministered, of the hope inspired, of the new courage infused; let the most facile pen select these and tell of the glorious deeds and self-sacrifice, that our young men may know of the matchless women who bore the men who fell in the great struggle, and who survived to grapple with poverty and adversity and win a bloodless glory for our South and who are now struggling for our National glory.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

ARDOR FOR CUBA'S CAUSE.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF A SPEECH BY MAJOR RUSSELL.

APRIL 5, 1895.

Major Russell was next introduced and spoke as follows:

"Had I the brilliancy of the orator who has just sat down, (referring to Senor, Quesada) with the feeling of patriotism roused in my breast it would move me to stir you to grand works for liberty. I believe that every man on the face of the earth has a right to liberty before the face of God. Monarchy is tottering throughout all the world. I believe it is the right of man to govern himself through a representative government. Therefore, I believe in this struggle of Cuba for freedom. I do not call it a revolution; I say it is a reaching for, and demanding of what is a birthright.

Cubans, if you desire to win this prize you must be ready

to pour out your life's blood. I am not speaking wildly, for I know what war is. But my case was worse than yours, for I was called upon to fire upon that flag under which I had been born, and I tell you that the bitterest moment of my life was when I had to give the command "fire" upon those who were still my brothers and my countrymen.

I do not speak these words to discourage you, I hope to live to see you, sir, (turning to Quesada) crowned with the reward of your country's liberty. I am glad to see many women here to-night. Let me tell you, Cubans, that when God and the women and the United States are on your side, evil itself cannot prevail against you. But above all, I ask the blessing of Almighty God on your cause. Ask Him to aid you and then use your powder and ball, the cloud will pass and the sun will shine the brighter for the short obscurity."

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1895.

EXCURSION TO PABLO BEACH—FRIENDS OF CUBA.

Major A. J. Russell has promised to participate and will raise his voice as only Florida's "silver-tongued orator" can, for the cause of "Cuba Libre." His speech was one well calculated to stir up enthusiasm for Cuban liberty.

He commenced by saying that one question of the hour was, "Is it right that we should sympathize with the Cubans? Is it right that we should extend our hearty sympathy with these patriots?" He paid a high tribute to the patriots who for ten years fought for the freedom of Cuba and who are again the leaders in the present movement.

He said he believed this country ought to aid Cuba in obtaining her liberty and shall we say: "God be with you, and that the American people will sympathize with you?"

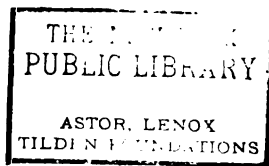
"I take my first lesson from the Declaration of Independence, and it is that all men are equal," said the speaker, "it is the most that we can do after having drank of the cup of liberty, to sympathize with you. Kings and queens may rule by the grace of God, but it is not God's grace that each man

should individually make up the government of his country. If the Cubans are wrong in their fight for freedom, then I think that our forefathers were wrong in their fight for freedom. I stand here fully committed to my sympathy. The United States stands to-day as a vast object-lesson for oppressed Cuba. Think of the taxation! If a Cuban kills a cow for flesh to eat, he is taxed a dollar; if he takes the hide from the cow he is taxed another dollar; and in fact whatever they do, they are taxed for it." He grew eloquent as he graphically described the wrongs inflicted on the Cuban people, and appealed to the Cubans to throw off the Spanish yoke. "I tell you, men of Spain, if any of you are here, that the oppression by taxation is why the Cubans are fighting for freedom.

Taxation is right when the people are taxed to pay the running expenses of their country, but they should only be taxed for the necessary running expenses. Not one *stiver* of taxation should ever be levied beyond the amount needed as actual expenses for the government."

"You of the beautiful isle, who are fighting for your freedom must remember that wars are not won by words. You must fight, you must be ready to die. You must be ready at any moment to sacrifice your lives and be ready to die. You must go to Cuba and conquer Campos, who was sent there to crush and murder your people. The death of Campos would be a blow that would make Spain tremble. You must be ready to lay down your lives on the altar of your country. You must act, must persevere, never shrink, press on until liberty is won. You must fight and fight until you make old Spain tremble to the very heart and never let loose until you have liberty in your grasp. I believe your going to win." He ridiculed the report that General Jose Marti had been killed, when it was known that he was 97 miles from the place where he was said to have met his death.

Modern warfare had not yet brought into use a long range gun that would throw a shot that distance.



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FROM CUBAN POLITICAL CLUB.

"I want you free. I want to see the iron heel of old European monarchies removed from American soil." He then paid a compliment to the ladies of Cuba for their patriotism and attendance. "When God, lovely women, and the United States are on your side, no opposing powers can prevail against you. Cuba will be free, she will be evangelized and a splendid little gem of a Republic will be born of the Caribbean Sea and will nestle under the wing of her big sister Republic, the glorious United States until she is strong. God bless you ; God help you and God inspire you and may God give you the victory."

In writing of it, he said: "I was filled with patriotism as I pleaded with my own glorious country as a mighty Republic to give their sympathy to the struggling people of Cuba to be free from their doty oppression of the Spaniards. I do not think I ever saw a people go so wild as when I made an impassioned appeal that a beautiful daughter might be born out of the Caribbean Sea which would be called 'Cuba Republica.'"

HAVANA, CUBA, Feb. 28, 1896.

It is with the greatest sorrow that we have learned of the sad death of R. W. Brother A. J. Russell, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. Brother Russell had made himself dear to us on account of his cheerful and fraternal behavior toward our Grand Lodge. Please, therefore, accept on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, our warmest expression of condolence.

(Signed.)

J. T. PELLON,

Grand Secretary.



CHAPTER X.

A TRIBUTE.

EX-GOVERNOR REED.

Major Russell was eminently a practical man. A man of stern political and social affinities coupled with strong prejudices; but yet a man whose moral character and religious convictions were proof against political corruption, and the scholastic sophistries, and fallacious theories, which are so successfully invoked to obstruct common sense and obscure the mental vision, and blunt the moral sensibilities of mankind. In his robust physical nature, he embodied to an eminent degree the elements of a useful citizen in church and State, ever foremost in local and general industrial development as well as, educational, moral and religious progress and elevation. My first acquaintance with him was as an industrious master mechanic and builder, in fact the leading contractor in restoring the waste places and reconstructing the city of Jacksonville after the civil war, while the State was under Federal control, before the inauguration of the Republican Constitution and the heated period following the enfranchisement of the former slaves.

During this period Major Russell did not, like many other prominent citizens "sulk in his tent" and content himself with lamenting the "lost cause" for which he had vainly fought, but with the self reliance of an independent patriotic citizen he entered earnestly upon the work of achieving a livelihood and competence for himself and family, and the restoration of civil law and social order and acquiescence in the results of the rebellion.

As an energetic citizen, mechanic, contractor, and promo

ter of industrial, social and moral development, he secured universal respect and confidence.

After the inauguration of civil government under the Republican Constitution, which sought to harmonize under a common law the heterogeneous elements, which constituted the body politic, however, Major Russell entered with vigor into the partizan campaign against the new political system, and his eloquence and energy was successfully invoked by the Democratic party to arouse sectional and race prejudice, and excite political animosity until, through corruption, treachery and incompetency, Republican administration was overthrown, and Southern Democracy obtained control.

To the great credit of his party, and the great advantage of the educational interests of the State, Major Russell was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction, the duties of which he entered upon with characteristic courage, energy, and enthusiasm, and a spirit of *liberality* and *philanthropy*, which overcame *all* prejudices and commanded the confidence of all classes. He welcomed all the agencies enlisted from abroad in behalf of the freedmen and stimulated the ambition of the negro for a higher civilization; while he appealed to the manhood of the illiterate whites, whom slavery had deprived of the means of education, with a power, which no emissary, of the federal government or representation of Northern schools, could attain. He surmounted the narrow bigotry and intolerance of the sordid, unreasoning, unambitious native whites, and awakened the latent manhood so long buried through degradation and ignorance as to become invisible, and infused new hope for their children.

I shall never forget his recital of his first experience among the "crackers" in a precinct of Duval County. A northern farmer, accustomed to public schools for his children, had located in the neighborhood and appealed to the Superintendent for the establishment of a school, offering a suitable site and facilities for building. The native white population

indignantly protested against this inovation upon their sacred rights. Major Russell called a meeting of the people, who promptly responded to the call of a confederate soldier and not a "carpet bagger."

He addressed them as fathers and mothers, and responsible human beings, under the sands and wiregrass which had overgrown their minds and hearts he found a tender spot; he kindled it to a manly responce. Let us have the school, and God bless you in your mission of civilization. The school was established and became the pride of the fathers and mothers, whom ignorance, bigotry and intolerance had consigned to hopeless bondage.

I watched with intense interest the progress and development of the school system under his administration and when a cruel and unjust decree deprived him of his official power, I regarded it, as it has since abundantly proven, the greatest domestic political calamity that could have befallen the State, in retaining its moral, social and material advancement.

Of the blighting influence of his "turning down" in the "home of his political friends," I have a daily object lesson in my own immediate neighborhood, where was located the best and most promising graded school for white pupils of any suburb of Jacksonville. In endowment of buildings and grounds, in competence of teachers and in number and character of its pupils, it was the equal of the highest school in the city. All this is now changed and the graded school abandoned and the buildings and grounds consigned to a colored school, while two small schools of about 20 children are taught in primary branches for a few months in Winter, and for the higher branches pupils have to cross the river and in violation of the law find reception at the City High School or be educated in private schools. For years the people have indulged the fond hope of the restoration of Major Russell and the redemption of the dilapidated School System, when God in His providence by an insructable decree removed him from us

just as he had qualified himself for higher usefulness to the State by associating a highly educated and congenial assistant as part of his domestic household.

In the death of Major Russell the State has lost one of its ablest and most efficient citizens, the School System its most faithful promoter, not that he was endowed with superior educational advantages or more refined scholastic qualifications, but because of his peculiar relations to the conflicting and diversified elements with which he had to contend and his earnest purpose to enlighten the ignorant, elevate the degraded and stimulate the manhood of all classes, regardless of race, color or previous condition. In short to free the State from sectional, social, and political bigotry and intolerance through the legitimate channels of education, moral and industrial development.

It was my lot as the official representative of the new system of government to be the conspicuous target of partizan and personal injustice and Major Russell was among the most efficient and able leaders of the Southern Democracy in denunciation; but then there was no malice in his nature and he but yielded to the necessity of his environments and when he took up the official portfolio; which my appointees had laid down and entered upon the completion of the work of popular education; which we had successfully inaugurated; and which forms the only safe basis for free government, in his earnest, sincere, faithful and persevering efforts and his firm adherence to moral and religious principle, I freely gave him my hand and heart in behalf of his good work; which, could he have been allowed to continue, the State would not now be dishonored by a law based upon the assumption that society is so depraved as to require legal protection against innovation from the higher education and moral culture of the colored race, and the more disgraceful proclamation by the official head of our School System of having been "born to hate" a class of our citizenship, of which Henry Clay was a conspicu-

ous leader, and of "living to perpetuate that hate." God save the State and nation from the educational control of any and all who "hate" any class of mankind, and who seek to deprive any, however degraded of the benefits of civilization.

JUNE 15, 1876.

A mass meeting was called to ratify the Quincy and Lake City nominations. Major A. J. Russell was elected one of the Vice-Presidents. When called upon to speak, he began by saying "congratulatory feelings" should be laid aside for the present, and that all should go earnestly at work to secure the success of the party in the coming election.

JULY 21, 1876.

A meeting was held in Polk's Hall by the Democratic Conservative Party. A procession formed in front of Polk's Hall and proceeded to the St. James, where the headquarters of the Central Campaign Club were. On arriving at the place, Major A. J. Russell called the meeting to order, nominating Col. J. J. Daniels, as President.

In 1880 Major A. J. Russell was elected a member of the State Democratic Committee of Florida.

DEMOCRATIC RATIFICATION MEETING.

JULY 21, 1880.

Speeches by Governor Bloxham, Gen. J. J. Finley and Gen. Perry.

Major Russell being called for said he felt like the little boy sent to gather chips after the other boys had returned from gathering, and considering the size of the boys who preceeded him, he thought his burden would be light. He counselled the people not to underrate their opponents, but to work hard and continually and success would crown their efforts.

The Democrats in council at Metropolitan Hall, July 22, 1882, were called to order by Hon. H. A. L'Engle. Major A. J. Russell was appointed a delegate to the District Convention.

The Democrats of the Second Congressional District held their Convention in Jacksonville, August 2, 1882. Major A. J. Russell of Duval, said: It was well to pause and consider; that it was well to know who were and who were not delegates, and that the matter ought to be settled before there be any organization effected. The secretary, A. W. Owens, proceeded to call the roll. While this was going on Major Russell announced to the Convention that an excursion had been arranged for the delegates an a pleasure trip to the bar, etc.

Major Russell was appointed one of the speakers to address the people of the Second Congressional District of Florida.

SPEECHES OF FINLEY AND RUSSELL AT PALATKA.

Major Russell followed General Finley in a very amusing and telling

speech. He termed himself the light artillery of the occasion, and skirmished around several important questions.

MONTICELLO, FLA., September 28, 1884.

By invitation, Major A. J. Russell addressed the Cleveland and Perry Club of this place on Friday night last. The audience filled Bailey's large hall, and, expecting a good speech, responded in applause and appreciative demonstration to the glowing thoughts and fine periods of the eloquent orator. Major Russell fully came up to his reputation as an orator and can increase it only by repeating his visit. In the energy of his utterance and his rather biting wit and sarcasm Major Russell reminds one oftentimes of the great Georgian, Benjamin Hill. The influence of the speaker, while political was likewise moral, and no one, I venture to say, who heard him Friday night left the hall without feeling that he was made better, as well as wiser, for hearing the speech.

MAY 14, 1893.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock Major A. J. Russell will address the young men of Jacksonville on the "Great Inheritance of the Young Men of America." The ladies are cordially invited and it is earnestly hoped that a large crowd of young people will be present to hear the eloquent speaker on this grand theme.

At the annual city election for municipal officers in April 1874, Major Russell was chosen by a handsome majority to represent the city on the Board of Aldermen. His course in the legislative branch of the city government amply justified the judgment of his constituents, who by their suffrages elevated him to the position, for as in every other undertaking in life he was eminently successful, leaving the impress of his marked abilities upon the history of the city he was chosen to serve. His keen foresight, thoroughly practical views, together with his sound judgment and extensive knowledge of men and affairs, and his ability to present matters in a most forcible and concise manner by reason of his unquestioned eloquence, Major Russell was peculiarly fitted for the able discharge of the duties devolving upon him as a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city. At the outset he stood in the foremost rank among the city's progressive and energetic officials, and by his untiring, painstaking and consistent efforts succeeded in accomplishing much good.

Major Russell's associates on the Board of Aldermen, were, Louis I. Fleming, President; W. M. Bostwick, S. B. Hubbard, B. A. Thebaut, E. W. Denny, W. W. Douglass, A. J. Bentley and Jacob Huff.

Peter Jones, Mayor; E. Fortune, Marshall; W. H. Christy, Clerk; Thomas Lancaster, Assessor; Phillip Walter, Collector; Charles Fridenburg, Treasurer.

Many of the above, like Major Russell, have since crossed over the river and have found rest from their labors "among the silent majority."

Major Russell was chairman of what at that time was two of the most important standing committees of the Board of Aldermen, viz: Fire Department and Police. He was also a member of the Committee on Schools, Ordinances and Rules.

A few extracts gleaned from the records of the city during Major Russell's tenure of office are herewith submitted as an evidence of his activity in the affairs of the city.

W. C. WEST.

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, May 18, 1874.

Council met in regular session: The President being absent, Alderman Russell was on motion of Alderman Huff, elected President pro tem.

At a following meeting Alderman Russell presented an estimate of cost for lighting the city by means of kerosene oil, which motion was referred to the committee on lamps and streets.

Alderman Bentley being called upon by Alderman Russell, reported progress in the matter of the new street around the northern portion of the city, asking the appointment of some Alderman in the place of Mr. Denny. The request was granted, the chair appointing Major Russell.

Alderman Russell moved the appointment of a committee to address a welcome to the members of the State Medical Committee to assemble in this city on Wednesday next. Carried.

The chair appointed as such committee Aldermen Russell, Bentley and Hubbard.

On motion of Alderman Russell it was

Resolved, That the committee to visit Tallahassee be requested to urge upon the members of the Legislature the expediency of exempting cotton factories from taxation.

JUNE 8, 1874.

Alderman Russell was elected to prepare an address on the question of bonding the city, and the Mayor called a public meeting at the park.

JUNE 1, 1874.

Alderman Russell offered an ordinance dividing the city into four wards.

JACKSONVILLE, NOV. 30, 1875.

To the Hon. President and Members of the City Council.

GENTLEMEN: The Committee of Builders to whom you referred the alterations being made in the building heretofore known as the National Hall have examined the same and find that the parties in charge have by framing in interties of 3x12 timbers let into the frame work and driven together as closely fitting as possible on all sides of the building, and by 1½x12 braces running to the centre from each angle, together with strong iron anchors on the south side, and by an increased number of columns or upright supports resting upon walls beneath, and otherwise have made the building perfectly safe and secure against all ordinary danger.

Respectfully,

A. J. RUSSELL,
E. N. FLETCHER,
A. B. CANOVA.

Alderman Russell, from the Special Committee appointed on the part of Council to extend a welcome to the State Medical Association at its late session in this city, reported that the duty had been performed and an appreciative response returned.

TRIBUTE.

W. C. WEST, CITY RECORDER.

Notwithstanding the manifold and varied calls upon Major Russell in the busy marts of life, he still found time to associate himself with the Volunteer Fire Department, which in those days numbered among its membership many of Jacksonville's most prominent citizens, which body as an organization proved a most valuable institution in the preservation of lives and property from destruction by fire.

Like every other cause which the subject of this sketch espoused, he entered the organization with that sincere and energetic purpose which ever characterized the man, and by his

abilities and magnetic influence, infused into the individual members a like spirit, which made the Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Department one of great efficiency and usefulness, and won for it the entire confidence and commendation of the people. No well informed person will deny but that along in the seventies, the Jacksonville Fire Department was the hope and pride of Jacksonville, for by the heroic and self-sacrificing spirit displayed on all occasions, when the services of the department were in demand, the individual and collective efforts of its members, resulted in saving the city from destruction by the devouring element.

The Mechanics Steam Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1, of which a remnant still remains, was organized on February 3, 1870, and the formation of this company really marked the inauguration of the Fire Department of the city, of which Major Russell subsequently became a most striking individual figure.

Being a man born to lead, in the natural course of events, Major Russell was chosen the first Chief of the Fire Department, and by his administration of its affairs, endeared himself in a signal manner to the rank and file composing its membership, and by the able, energetic and intelligent discharge of the duties devolving upon him he was recognized as a most thorough and efficient officer.

As an evidence of Major Russell's popularity, and the esteem in which he was held by his comrades, for every member of the department regarded himself as his comrade, the *Ætna* Steam Fire Engine Company on November 6, 1871, presented him with a silver mounted walking cane, and in December, following the Mechanics Company expressed its appreciation of his efforts by presenting to him a silver cup, as a token of the regard and esteem in which he was held.

After serving with distinction as Chief, Major Russell at his own request retired to the ranks, and in 1874 was chosen foreman of the *Phoenix* Hose Co., No. 2, which numbered

among its membership the flower of Jacksonville's young manhood. He served in the same capacity of foreman of said company through the years 1875 and 1876.

On June, 7, 1875, the Fire Department of St. Augustine, visited Jacksonville as the guests of the *Ætna Steam Fire Co.* and the *Phoenix Hose Co.*, No. 2, on which occasion a cordial and brilliant address of welcome was delivered by Foreman Russell of the *Phoenix Company*.

A generous collation was spread in the old National Freedman's Hall, and during the repast, addresses were delivered by Maj. Russell, Col. C. P. Cooper, Jno. S. Hartridge, Esq., and others. This fact is noted for the purpose of emphasizing the esteem and importance with which the Fire Department of Jacksonville was regarded at the time when Major Russell was connected with it, and for which he did so much for its up-building.

OFFICE CHIEF FIRE DEPARTMENT, }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 25, 1871. }

Firemen of Jacksonville:

Your Chief cannot refrain from congratulating, as well as complimenting you upon the heroic and effective manner in which you discharged your duties last night at the burning of Harely & Co's, Mill. You have established beyond the shadow of a doubt your heroism and effectiveness as a Fire Department, and your City should be proud of you.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Chief.

To the Friendship and Mechanics Fire Company, and the Alert and Phoenix Hose Companies,

GENTLEMEN: Allow us hereby to tender you our thanks for the gallant and victorious manner in which you fought the devouring element last night. By the promptness with which you arrived, over the heavy roads, at the scene of the fire, and the well directed energy which you displayed, a large amount of property has been saved from destruction, and a feeling of security established in the hearts of our citizens, to which hitherto they have been strangers.

EPPINGER, RUSSELL & Co.



CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 5, 1896.

MRS. A. J. RUSSELL,

Jacksonville, Fla.

DEAR MADAM: I learn with pleasure and interest that material is being prepared for a commemorative tribute to the "Life and Labors of Albert J. Russell."

Florida has had a goodly host of progressive citizens who have freely given of their time, money and unselfish efforts for her advancement. Ever in their front rank, with a brave enthusiasm that obstacles could not daunt, and a persistent cheerfulness that infected his associates in the darkest hours, stood Albert J. Russell.

In the inception, organization and successful administration of the affairs of the Florida State Park Association his services as Secretary were indefatigable and invaluable. Here, as in all his other manifold services in the public behalf, he was characterized by the same steady loyalty to the cause in which he enlisted that invariably insured the admiration and devotion of his co-workers. In this connection, I vividly recall many tributes to the self-denying labors of Major Russell which I have often heard from the lips of the lamented Col. J. J. Daniel, whose life was also freely spent in the services of the people.

Those were palmy days for Florida, around which cluster a bright galaxy of memories, from which I am glad to bring forth this brief memento of the life and labors of an old and true friend.

JAMES H. PAINE.

A few extracts taken from the daily papers will show how interested Major Russell was in the State Fair, because he believed it would advance the interests of his adopted State.

He never lost an opportunity to aid a worthy cause. He spoke thus of an opportunity he felt his State had lost. "They have lost a golden opportunity, and will learn the sad lesson, that in all the vast eternity there is not an atom which may be snatched to fill a niche of lost time, or repay a lost opportunity."

A TRIBUTE.

HON. H. W. CLARK.

While his eloquent tongue had long made the name of the distinguished subject of these memories familiar as a household word to his fellow-citizens all over Florida, and the chief newspapers of the State had frequently given expression to his intelligent views on questions of public interest, through correspondence, it was not until the fall of 1878, that Major Russell engaged actively in journalistic work, when as editor, he united with Reuben and M. R. Bowden in the establishment and publication of *The Breeze* at Jacksonville. This was an afternoon newspaper issued every day in the week except Sunday, the first publication being made November 15th, 1878. It was successfully operated until some time during the year 1880, when it became absorbed by purchase in one of the larger evening papers of Jacksonville.

The following witty paragraph taken from his salutatory which appeared in the first issue *The Breeze*, gives his idea of the journalistic needs of this city at that time (the *Sun* and *Traveler* were contemporaneous papers):

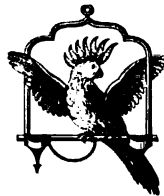
"We are not alone in our opinion when we say that this city needs a strictly local, live paper. "Throw (politics) to the dogs; we'll none of it.." We hope to make *The Breeze* a permanent institution in our midst by making it non-partisan, non-sectarian, open-faced, open-hearted, live, liberal, level-headed, luminary; not sufficiently brilliant to obliterate the *Sun*, nor BREEZY enough to blind the wayside *Traveler* with the dust we raise."

But God, who had provided him with more than the average of "gray matter," had also implanted in his heart and mind a strong, vigorous, ever-enduring interest in all questions wherein the people of this State were concerned. Albert J. Russell had been a life-long Democrat, and in that political faith he was honored by his fellow-citizens, and continued to

the end. It was to be expected, therefore, that the policy humorously outlined as above, would be not too literally adhered to. Nor was it. Politics was not thrown altogether to the dogs. On the contrary, the editorial columns of the *Breeze* on occasions became very lively reading. Stirring political events were occurring; and the Republican Party, the natural foe of Democracy, was still strong and organized in the State.

As an orator Major Russell was exceptionally endowed. He could so play upon the emotions of his audience, having the proper subject, as to provoke laughter or tears at will; cheers for the cause he espoused—disgust for that which claimed his condemnation. Fear of consequences never deterred him from expressing the conviction of what he believed to be right, and from the splendid command of language which he had acquired and the clear forcible and slow enunciation with which nature had endowed him, his philippics went to the mark every time and were always dramatic in effect.

As editor, this same attribute of character governed his pen and his page of the little afternoon daily, which he directed for nearly two years of his life, was replete with strong and logical editorials not only in advancing of the doctrines of Democracy, but upon all questions which affected his city, county and State.



CHAPTER XI.

Mrs. A. J. Russell,

Jacksonville, Florida.

DEAR MADAM:—Having heard of the sad death of your much lamented and dearly beloved husband, I take the liberty as a brother of him whom we all loved, and loved to honor, to write to you, and if possible in a few words, convey to you my heartfelt sympathy for you in this sad, sad affliction.

It was my pleasing fortune to be one of your late husband's warmest friends, having known him for many years, and knowing him as I did, knowing the many noble and generous qualities that he possessed, I feel that I not only have the right of a friend, but it is the duty of a brother (although I have never had the pleasure of meeting you personally) to say a few words towards perpetuating his memory.

Seventeen years ago, on my first visit to your city, I went a stranger, clothed with a letter of introduction to him whom we now mourn. He read the letter, and I shall never, never forget his expression after reading it. He extended to me the right hand of fellowship, and with a warm grasp, that once felt, one will never forget, he assured me in the warmest terms possible, of his pleasure for the opportunity offered to be of service to me. His whole heart seemed to be in his welcome, and though years have passed away, and many changes have come about, still I hold in my memory fresh, this meeting, and fraternal greeting of my friend and brother. It was my privilege and pleasure to meet him year after year, on many occasions since that time. His brethren loved to honor him.

As a K. of H. he was chosen as the first G. D. of this Jurisdiction, which position he filled with much credit to himself,

and profit and honor to the fraternity. He served the G. L. as its Representative to the Supreme Lodge for several years, where he was always found at his post in the discharge of his duties, where he made his worth known and felt, and I remember with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure, at the meeting of the G. L. held in Tallahassee, where we were honored by a visit from one of our Supreme officers. When the time arrived when he should receive his welcome from the G. L. your husband was chosen as the mouth-piece.

I shall never forget his cheering words of welcome. They were the choicest that I have ever heard fall from the lips of man. His beautiful tribute to "woman," to whom the very foundation of our grand and noble institution was dedicated; his words on this occasion made glad the hearts of all present, more particularly so our visiting brother. It made him feel that he was truly among his brethren, "among whom no contention should ever exist."

And then again, when one of our venerable brothers of the G. L. F. & A. M. was called from among us to mingle with those above, it fell to the lot of the ever-faithful and true brother to speak the last words in memory of him whom we all loved, his words on this occasion went home to the hearts of all present, and many eyes were made moist by the tears that were shed upon this occasion. His sympathetic tribute was printed in the proceedings and was read by thousands. These two in particular, and on many other occasions I have listened with much interest to his sincere words of welcome and consultation. He was at all times, and under all circumstances, conscientious in the discharge of his duties, both as a man, and as a citizen. He loved the orders to which he belonged; he loved to do them honor, and his brethren loved to honor him; and now that he has passed beyond, all his troubles are at an end, it must be comforting to you to feel that he is at rest. His earthly career is over, his work is finished; then let us try and emulate his Christian life, and when our race is run

and our work on earth is finished, we will be received as he was, and once more join him, whom we loved so dearly.

Again expressing to you my heartfelt sympathy, praying that God may give you strength to bear this, the saddest affliction that could possibly be placed upon you, with much respect, and my very best wishes, I am, sincerely yours,

J. M. HILLIARD,
G. M. & P. G. D., K. of H.

Major Russell was a charter member of the Amite Lodge No. 2544, Jacksonville. Received the degree on the 3d day of August, 1881. He was elected Grand Dictator at the organization of the Grand Lodge, December 16, 1881, and served in this position until January 14, 1885.

ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND LODGE KNIGHTS OF HONOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. DEC.

16, 1881.

In pursuance of notice from Hon. W. B. Hoke, Supreme Dictator of the Knights of Honor, the Past Dictators of several Lodges in the State of Florida assembled at the rooms of Amite Lodge, No. 2544, in the city of Jacksonville, Florida, on Dec. 16, 1881, at 12 noon, where Col. Badger, of Louisville, Ky., who had been commissioned by the Supreme Dictator to organize the Grand Lodge Knights of Honor of the State of Florida, received their credentials.

Dictator, A. J. Russell, of Amite Lodge, No. 2544, Jacksonville, was elected Grand Dictator. After the officers were duly installed Grand Dictator Russell took his seat and entered upon the transaction of business as directed by the Constitution.

After the transaction of business Grand Dictator Russell addressed the Lodge in an eloquent and entertaining manner setting forth the beauties and noble characteristics of the order

and as a result, creating a most favorable impression. Afterwards declared the same closed until June 13, 1882.



J. W. WOODWARD,

Grand Reporter.

First Annual Meeting was held at Fernandina, June 13, and 14, 1882. The Grand Lodge was called to order at 12 m., by Grand Dictator A. J. Russell. Grand Dictator's Report found in full in the Proceedings of 1882, a portion of which we copy.

BROTHERS: We are met to-day in the First Regular Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge Knights of Honor, of Florida, since our first meeting for the purpose of being instituted; and as we are thus permitted to assemble ourselves together in the enjoyment of health and strength, and in the possession of our reasoning faculties, thus enabling and fitting us for the work which is before us, I invite you to join with me in heartfelt thanksgiving to Almighty God, from whom cometh all good and perfect gifts, and to invoke His aid in all that we may undertake to do, in order that it may redound to His glory and the good of our Order. There is always strength to be derived from the assembling together of man with his fellow-man, social, moral, and mental attrition, so to speak, is calculated to break and wear off the dark and opaque outer crustation of individual human character, and expose to view, for imitation and emulation, the true, the pure and the useful in our characters, and rebuke and wholesomely reprove the wrong and vi-

cious. Small indeed is that life which ensconced luxuriantly in its own mansion, listens to the pelting storm without and shrugs its shoulders in complacency, while it draws its robes more tightly around its bosom and congratulates itself that the storm cannot enter there, while it gives neither ear nor sympathy to the poorer storm-beaten brother who wends his checkered pathway through life's storms and sorrows. Such a life is not that of a true Knight of Honor. Our very life is mutual aid; our very end and aim is to help each other—prepare against the storms and vicissitudes of life, and still more to prepare for our loved ones; when we have one by one fought that great last battle which each of us must fight, and in which at last we will be conquered; when we may, by our fraternal system, leave them prepared for against gaunt hunger and the cold charities of a selfish world. May Heaven give us aid to do our work and mission well.

I have no special rulings or decisions of law to report to you for review. Our very infancy in this Jurisdiction has spared me the pain and responsibility of such a work, which doubtless would have been the case had some one of our brethren had the chance to have become studied in the legal branch of our Order, or set in the construction of the same. We have one or two brethren from abroad who have seemed disposed to be learned and disposed to argue the learned subject; but as these did not interest us locally, I quietly gave them the go by.*

Thus brothers, closes the report of my work, and the work itself, as your presiding officer. The work of the Order has been new to me, as to all of you. I have tried to pursue a course as near the general law, in the absence of an organic law for the Grand Lodge, as I possibly could; being governed by your actions at the first meeting of our body. If I have erred, it has been of the head, and not of the heart, or intent.

* Further report found on pp. 10 and 11, proceedings for 1882.

My work done, yours commences. I ask you to be careful and deliberate and fraternal, that all you may do may be done well. (He thanked the officers for their uniform courtesy and uniform fraternal kindness, and their able and timely assistance.)

Yours in O. M. A.

A. J. RUSSELL, Grand Dictator.

WEDNESDAY, July 18, 1883.

The Grand Lodge Knights of Honor of the State of Florida met this day in the Hall of Alachua Lodge, in the City of Gainesville, Florida, in obedience to the following call, issued by Grand Dictator A. J. Russell.

OFFICE OF GRAND DICTATOR, KNIGHTS OF HONOR. }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., May 30, 1883. }

To the various Lodges of Knights of Honor of Florida.

BRETHREN: In view of the prevalence of disease in parts of our Jurisdiction, and especially in Pensacola, it has been suggested to me by several Lodges that the meeting of the Grand Lodge be postponed. Therefore, in the interest and welfare of our beloved Order, I will postpone the meeting of the Grand Lodge until the third Wednesday in July, being the 18th of the month, at Gainesville. Trusting that all the Brotherhood will acquiesce.

I am yours in O. M. A.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Grand Dictator.

Attest: W. J. WOODWARD, Grand Reporter.

* GAINESVILLE, FLA., July 18, 1883.

Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Honor of Florida.

BRETHREN: We come at the close of another year to account for our stewardship and review our work. While we have been somewhat afflicted yet we have abundant cause for thanksgiving to Him who rules over all things, and holds the destiny of men in his hands. Our City of Pensacola was vis-

* Grand Dictator A. J. Russell opened the Grand Lodge July 18th, 1883. (A portion of the annual report.)

ited by a terrible scourge of yellow fever, and though we had a Lodge of sixty-five members in that city, only two deaths occurred from the pestilence. As soon as our brethren of the stricken city felt that they had need of aid and succor, and that they had exhausted all the means in their possession, and under their power to control, they called upon me for aid, I immediately issued an order to the Grand Reporter to forward \$50 from the Grand Lodge Treasury to Brother Hooton, and then issued the following circular.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., September 9, 1882.

To all True Knights of Honor in Florida, Greeting:

BRETHREN: The telegram has brought me the first cry for aid from our sister lodge, Bay Lodge, No. 2505, at Pensacola. They have been, and are stricken with the pestilence that destroyeth at night and wasteth away in the day—the dread scourge of yellow fever. Our Brothers, their wives and children are suffering. Bay Lodge has stood and is standing nobly by; but her funds are exhausted, and she appeals to us for aid. Shall they cry in vain! I beg you to respond as far as your ability goes, to forward all sums raised promptly to W. J. Woodward, Grand Reporter, at Fernandina, Fla.

Yours in O. M. A.,

A. J. RUSSELL, Grand Dictator.

By some mistake these circulars were sent abroad, while it will be seen it was addressed only to Lodges of Knights of Honor in Florida. Very soon I received a letter from the Supreme Dictator, R. H. Cochran, Esq., informing me that I was in violation of the law, telling me the violated section, prescribing how all circulars asking aid should be issued. It was with exquisite gratification that I replied to the Supreme Dictator and asked him to read the address of my circular, and explained to him the mistake in their appearing abroad, and expressed to him my opposition to the late fashion prevailing of flooding every city with money as soon as any sickness oc-

curred, because in many instances it resulted in great evil as well as some good, and that I felt every community should exhaust its own resources and means in such cases before aid was asked outside. I was greatly pleased and gratified, at the same time, at the kind expressions of fraternal and Knightly sympathy expressed by our excellent Brother in the name of the Supreme Lodge, and his assurance of aid and sympathy in our behalf.

In the meantime the circulars had found their way to many Lodges, who responded in true fraternal style, while several of the periodicals of the Order caught up the tale of distress and gave it wide circulation. The names of the various Lodges and the amount contributed will be given to you by our Brother, the Grand Reporter, in his report. I also received a draft from the Supreme Dictator for \$500, which I felt was not needed at the time, because the worst of the epidemic was over, and I returned the draft with our grateful acknowledgements, to which fact I see the Supreme Dictator refers in his report made to the recent session of the Supreme Lodge. *The following Brethren have knocked for admission to the Celestial Lodge, where an infinite and true Knighthood possesses the soul, and Death has, we trust proved but the grim old guard, who has flung wide open the door to an abundant entrance to them all.

Our insurance is not in invested funds or elaborately constructed edifices, subject to the ever fluctuating values of such investments, but in the pockets of the insured, and therefore an absolute promptness in the individual payment is necessary, as also is the prompt forwarding of the same by Lodge Officers.

When we contemplate the workings of our Order, for the relief of suffering and providing for the relief and protection of the bereaved and helpless; its sublime grandeur can be felt and seen; its colossal powers for good can be conceived; it pre-presents one of the most beautiful exemplifications of human fraternity. Therefore, let each member, however humble or lofty his position, realize that he is a co-worker in the grand

scheme, and upon him rests a due proportion of responsibility for the achievement of the success.

I am happy to state that no discord exists in our borders of which I have become cognizant ; perfect harmony prevails in all questions of law I have universally directed a complete adherence to the written letter of the same without effort to construe or interpret, and have thus, I trust kept down the spirit of disputation, and the Lodges have moved off upon the safe track.

Soon after the close of the epidemic in Pensacola, in accordance with the earnest petition of a large number of Brethren of Bay Lodge, asking that Brother Hooton be created a Past Dictator as a mark of appreciation and approval of his heroic, self-sacrificing and valuable work during the prevalence of the dread disease, I declared Brother Hooton to be a Past Dictator of Bay Lodge, entitled to all the privileges and prerogatives of the office, and in doing so, I earnestly hoped that our Brother, in that day for which all other days were made, might receive from the Eternal Judge the thrilling words: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me ; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." I earnestly hope the Grand Lodge will confirm this well-deserved action.

Let us be sure to guard well the outer door as to the moral and physical qualifications of those who seek to enter our portals. Now, my brethren, my feeble labors are with you. I have endeavored to do the best I could in the discharge of them ; if I have failed in any point, or if I have wounded any one in the discharge of my duties, I ask you to judge leniently of the one and forgive the other, and sincerely trust my successor may be better able to advance your interests and promote your growth, while I return to the ranks to become an earnest worker there.

Yours in O. M. A.,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Grand Dictator.

* For more complete report see Grand Proceedings for 1883.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT PENSACOLA, FLORIDA,
DEC. 6. 1882.

Resolved, That we hereby tender our sincere and earnest thanks to the Supreme Dictator, R. H. Cochran, Grand Dictator, A. J. Russell, Grand Reporter, W. J. Woodward, and all Knights of Honor everywhere who have contributed relief in our distress and trouble, that a copy of this resolution expressing our gratitude be forwarded to the Supreme and Grand Dictator and Grand Reporter, and also published in the *Knights of Honor Reporter*. Respectfully,

P. K. YONGE,
A. H. D'ALEMBERTÉ, } Committee.
N. M. McOEITING, }

PALATKA, FLA., Tuesday, Jan, 13, 1885.

The Grand Lodge Knights of Honor of the State of Florida, convened in its Third Annual Session at K. of H. Hall, in the city of Palatka, Florida, at 12 o'clock m., Grand Dictator A. J. Russell, presiding.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND DICTATOR, KNIGHTS OF HONOR, }
January 13, 1885. }

Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge :

We have come together again in the providence of the Grand Dictator of the Universe after an unusual interim, being eighteen months since our last meeting, resulting from the change made at the last session of the time of meeting, fixing it in January of each year, instead of June. It is a matter for great and true thankfulness that our Jurisdiction has been entirely spared the presence of any extraordinary disease and that the general health of our whole people has been so exceptionally good and that we, the representatives of our brotherhood are permitted to assemble together in the enjoyment of our health and strength and the absence of sorrow and affliction, I invite you, brethren, to join me in heartfelt return of thanks for these great blessings. Our Order has not increased in the number of Lodges, as I could have desired, yet, in membership,

our increase has been steady, and of the character of membership which we desired, and I have every reason to believe much good has been accomplished. *

Now, Brethren, I am ready to surrender the gavel and the distinguished place to which you have repeatedly elected me, to some one of your number whom I earnestly trust will be better able to conduct you to more complete success than it has been my good fortune to do. Thanking the Grand Lodge for their repeated kindnesses and those officers whose special duties made them my co-workers and advisers, for their hearty support, and invoking the blessing of God upon you,

I am fraternally yours in O. M. A.,

A. J. RUSSELL, Grand Dictator.

Jan. 13, 1885.

Past Grand Dictator, A. J. Russell, was elected Grand Trustee.

Brother A. J. Russell was elected Supreme Representative for two years. He was re-elected Jan. 1887, and at Branch's Opera House, Tampa, Fla., at the Public Installation of Officers Major A. J. Russell delivered one of his most eloquent addresses which was heartily received.

In 1886, we find Brother A. J. Russell chairman of four committees.

MARCH 11, 1890.

Past Grand Dictator A. J. Russell, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, welcomed Supreme Vice-Dictator, Brother Samuel Klotz, as a visitor to this Grand Jurisdiction.

March 13, 1893.

P. G. D., A. J. Russell, in a few well chosen remarks, welcomed the Grand Lodge to the city of Jacksonville, and extended to them the use of the hall of Amite Lodge.

MARCH 13, 1895.

Upon request of Past Grand Dictator, Brother A. J. Russell, proceeded to install the elected officers for the ensuing term, and in his eloquent manner addressed the Grand Lodge, encouraging the members to renewed work for the Order in the future.

Upon request of the Grand Dictator, Past Grand Dictator A. J. Russell addressed the Grand Lodge as follows :

* For full report see "Printed Proceedings," p p. 7, 8 and 9, 1895.

GRAND DICTATOR:—I scarcely know how I shall be able to comply with the request of Past Grand Dictator Hilliard to address the Grand Lodge at this time, for having said so much during this session I have almost said all I know, but a few thoughts suggest themselves to me, as a result of the remarks of our beloved Grand Treasurer.

Dear Brethren, let us not look so much at the results, as we suppose they exist, of the truly great misfortune our State seems to have suffered. I believe in the providence of God's universal compensation; were it not that so wise and merciful provision were made by Him who ruleth over all things, and who, though unlike the god of the idolator, is invisible to the physical eye of our humanity, is nevertheless always present in the activities and development of men, and when, therefore, he putteth his hand on an enterprise here and it withereth, look for his other hand to uplift and bless in some other work, so that at last the end is better than the beginning. In view of this encouraging aspect of Divine Providence let us go forward as though our part is to diligently improve always that which is left, and patiently wait for developments.

These thoughts led me to think of what such a great Fraternity as ours should be, and in the first place, integrity unfailing should be the prime condition. When I meet a brother of this Order I want to feel that I can unhesitatingly place my life, my character, my honor, my family in his hands if needs be, and in sweet repose calmly abide the end of whatever fiery trial I may be called upon to pass. We should be a class of men who our fellow citizens would gladly look upon as men and citizens whose words were as good as their bonds. Are we not KNIGHTS OF HONOR? Is not honor expressed in this form expressedly the very pith and central idea of our association? And it would seem that our *founders* would go still further in the strength of this virtue, and qualify the high term by adding Knights, making us Knights of Honor. Who of us have not read of that chivalric name in almost all the

developments of the middle ages of our civilization. A Knight in those days held life as but a bauble brought into the scale with that which he had committed his *Honor*, to achieve. Brethren, we profess before the people to be Knights of Honor, let us be true to our profession, then mutual trust and confidence will be inspired, and from this confidence and trust a true brotherhood will arise, such as God himself will smile upon, and all Heaven and earth will rejoice over as they behold it.

Such a brotherhood will inspire a true sympathy and fraternal affection in all our ranks. Think of it a moment! One hundred and forty thousand men, good and true, bound in a bond of love, pledged to loyalty to the Government under which we live, and obedience to law and order, the simple sight of distress or suffering in our ranks anywhere would be relieved and ministered to with alacrity and joy.

The turmoil and strife, the trouble which seems now to be extant with the number of our States, would be expelled from this country, which should be the embodiment of peace and happiness. A country so blessed at the hands of the Creator; shaped in mountainous magnificence; beautiful hills and valleys; bedecked with boquets of forests and flowers; watered by great streams rising and flowing in every direction, and its bosom filled with minerals and precious metals, gold and silver; and right here I believe that such a country with such authority, should make money enough and place it in circulation in sufficient quantities as to stimulate business, and make it of these precious metals God has so abundantly given; give us gold, yes give us silver, yes, and a plenty of it to meet our business demands and quit bowing to the old effete monarchies of Europe as to what we should give our people for their earnings. If the true principle of love permeated the Government as we hope and expect it to permeate the people, and this law of love is what generates patriotism, these harrassing times would pass away and "come again no more," What

we need, dear brethren, to perfect peace, prosperity and noble manhood is the law of love among men and their obedience to its sweet rule, then we should behold that universal law of brotherhood which would make pale the Knight of the past, and develop in every home, business, attitude of life, real, true Knights of Honor.

Pardon me in closing these entirely impromptu remarks while I transpose into prose a beautiful little poem.

"An Arab Sheik, Abou Ben Adhem, in his tent did sleep, dreams of things happening in the day troubled his sleep, and a vision came, a celestial visitant entered his tent, holding in one hand an open book and in the other a pen.

"Abou Ben Adhem awaking and beholding his strange visitant enquired, 'What wouldst thou,' and the visitant replied, 'to write down the names of those who love God.' Abou Ben Adhem shook his head and humbly said, 'Is my name one?' 'Nay, not so, replied the angel,' sorrowfully the visitant closed the book and reluctantly left the tent, but Abou Ben Adhem cried out, 'Write me as one that loves his fellow-man.'

Night again came on. All day the Arab Sheik had thought upon his dream, until Abou Ben Adhem slept again, and, troubled in his dreams, awoke and beheld the visitant again, and Abou Ben Adhem said, 'What wouldst thou,' and He said to tell thee 'Abou Ben Adhem's name leads all the rest,' for who can love his fellow man and not love the God who made him."

On motion of Past Grand Dictator J. M. Hilliard, it was resolved that the address of our worthy Brother Russell be printed in the proceedings of this session and that a rising vote of thanks be extended him for his eloquent words of love and affection.

Speaking before the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Honor in Tampa, March 1895, Major Russell wrote:

"I was only giving to my fellowmen what God so graciously gave me and I am sure some of those men are better men, purer men from my talk. The spirit of God came upon me and I spoke freely of truth. I did not fail to denounce evil.

In it all I tried to honor the name of our God and Father and bless the

people who listened to me and look for my reward in God's gracious approval.

How can we love and serve God without loving and serving our fellow men."

Grand Dictator William H. Garland in his address while reviewing the number of deaths, said: "On January 17th, 1896, Past Grand Master A. J. Russell died, having faithfully done his duty while among us. To him the Knights of Honor owe much during the early days of this Grand Lodge.

MARCH, 11, 1896.

TRIBUTE.

BY A. H. D'ALEMBERTE.

The startling and sad intelligence of the death of our most worthy Past Grand Dictator, Albert J. Russell, who died on the 17th day of January, 1896, at his home in the city of Jacksonville, reminds us that the destroyer is ever working in our midst. In the death of Albert J. Russell, the Order of the K. of H. loses a brother who was ever ready to proffer the hand of aid and the voice of sympathy to the needy and distressed of the fraternity; an active member of the order, whose utmost endeavors were ever extended for its welfare and prosperity; a friend and companion who was dear to us all; a citizen whose upright and noble life was a standard of emulation to his fellows. Brother Russell was a charter member of Amite Lodge No. 2544, of Jacksonville, having received the degree on the 3rd day of August 1881, was elected Grand Dictator at the organization of the Grand Lodge in 1881, December the 16th, and served this Grand Lodge as its executive officer until January 14th, 1885. He was elected Supreme Representative 1885 and again in 1887.

Major Russell had been elected to represent his Lodge in Grand Lodge to be held at Apalachicola, Fla., March 10-11, 1896, and he looked forward to the meeting with pleasant anticipations.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY.

HALL OF BAY LODGE No. 5505, }
KNIGHTS OF HONOR. }

PENSACOLA, FLA., March 2, 1896.

The unwelcome messenger of the Almighty summoned on January 17th, 1896, to the Paradise of God our well-beloved Brother Albert J. Rus-

sell, Past Grand Dictator of the Knights of Honor, and at one time Supreme Representative from this State; who during his earthly career served his country with notable courage on the field of battle, his State with high credit in honored positions, his fellow-citizens with the fullest fidelity in the walks of life, and his fraternities with supreme satisfaction in subordinate, Grand and Supreme Lodges.

Resolved, therefore, That in the death of our Brother A. J. Russell, that the Order has lost a most valued member, the community a highly honored and worthy citizen, and his widow a kind-hearted and affectionate husband.

Resolved, That to the bereaved widow we extend our heartfelt sympathy in her great sorrow, and may God, who has promised to be a protection to the widow, sustain her in this, the greatest of all trials.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the wife of our deceased brother, and spread upon the records of this Lodge.

Yours fraternally in O. M. A.,

[SEAL.]

JOHN EAGAN,
A. H. D'ALEMBERTE, } Committee.
L. M. BROOKS,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

The Knights of Honor in Florida has lost a prominent member in the death of Bro. Albert J. Russell. He died in Jacksonville, Jan. 17th. He was a charter member of Amite Lodge, No. 2544, and was the first Past Dictator. He was instrumental in organizing the Grand Lodge of Florida, and was elected Grand Dictator and re-elected for three terms. In 1885 he was elected Representative to the Supreme Lodge and subsequently re-elected for another term. He was recognized in the Supreme Body as a good parliamentarian and sound debater. He was Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Masons at the time of his death.—Knights of Honor Reporter, Boston.

IN MEMORIAM.

The Supreme Dictator of the Universe has at all times, in all nations and in all races of humanity, created certain beings endowed with superior qualities for directing and leading the minds and actions of their fellowmen. Such a man was Albert J. Russell.

The Divine Architect moulded and fitted him for a sphere of peculiar and diversified usefulness. His lot was cast in Florida where thousands of men to-day testify that the world is better for his having lived, and we thank God for Albert J. Russell, and for the good example and influence of his noble character. And we, the officers and members of Weeapopka Lodge, No. 2535, Knights of Honor, are,

Resolved, That it is with sorrow, we record the death of our Brother, the late Past Grand Dictator of this Order, Albert J. Russell, the influence of whose words and example did much to spread the good work of the Order.

That while we bow in reverent submission to the will of Heaven in this dispensation and bereavement, which has brought sorrow to so many hearts, we keenly feel the loss of our Brother and friend, whose eloquence, forceful example and faithful zeal, have for thirty years been as a tower of strength and a beacon light to his fellowmen.

Resolved, That a separate page in the records of this Lodge be inscribed to the memory of Albert J. Russell. That a copy of this memorial be given the city press for publication, and a copy thereof to the wife of the departed.

[SEAL.]

CHARLES N. HILLYER, }
HINTON J. BAKER, } Committee.
GEORGE L. BALTZELL }

FERNANDINA, FLORIDA, February 19, 1896.

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted by Weeapopka Lodge, No. 2535, at a regular meeting, Tuesday evening, February 18, 1896.

G. L. BALTZELL, Reporter.

J. M. STAPP, Dictator.

HALL OF AMITE LODGE No. 2544, }
KNIGHTS OF HONOR. }

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Feb. 6, 1896.

IN MEMORIAM.

WHEREAS: It has pleased the Allwise and Great Supreme Dictator of the Universe to call from his earthly labors, and to remove to another sphere our well beloved Brother Albert J. Russell, therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of Brother Albert J. Russell, this Lodge, and the membership of the Knights of Honor, everywhere, has lost a bright and shining ornament, a Brother whose activity in the "Good of the Order," whose zeal, fidelity and devotion to our cherished principles, were conspicuous traits of his character, and made him fraternally invaluable, and a Brother whose untiring efforts contributed in no small degree to the welfare and prosperity of the different Lodges of the Knights of Honor in the State of Florida. That in his death this community has lost a worthy citizen, and our State, a son, of whose record in the different positions entrusted by the people to him, she may well be proud. Be it further

Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved wife and kindred, and commend them to the Fatherly care and grace of the Great Supreme Dictator in whom alone rests the power to give immortal life and joy everlasting, and in whom there is to be found at all times comfort and consolation and relief from sorrow and care. Be it further

Resolved, That the Lodge Room be draped in mourning for thirty days, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes, that a copy thereof be forwarded to the wife of our deceased Brother and that they be published in the papers of this City.

M. C. JORDAN, }
JACOB HUFF, } Committee.
WM. B. WATSON, }

CHAPTER XII.

Major A. J. Russell was made an Odd Fellow in Charleston South Carolina. Admitted to Jefferson Lodge No. 4, I. O. O. F. in 1854. He was elected Secretary in June, 1855; elected Vice-Grand in December, 1855; elected Noble Grand, June, 1856; admitted to the Grand Lodge of the State of South Carolina, January, 1857; appointed Grand Guardian of the Grand Lodge, January, 1857.*

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., held in Tallahassee Florida, 1873, he was appointed Grand Chaplain; re-appointed in '74, '75, '76. In 1880 he was appointed Grand Conductor; again appointed Grand Chaplain, '92, '93 and '94.

TRIBUTE.

COL. C. D. RINEHART.

Major A. J. Russell was received into Florida Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F., Jan. 18, 1870, as an Ancient Odd Fellow, that is, his certificate of former membership at the time of his joining had ceased to be a certificate on which he could be united with the Lodge in the usual way, but it was still evidence of former membership, such as to entitle him to obtain membership as an Ancient Odd Fellow.

On January 25, 1870, just one week after his reception as a member by Florida Lodge, he was elected its Noble Grand, and at once proceeded together with some of his associates to bring about some radical reforms in the Lodge. At the time he united with the Lodge, we have been informed that the application of the principles of the Order had been very much

*Elected Grand Marshal, 1857. Joined Florida Lodge No. 1 by card Jan. 18, 1870.

neglected, and that certain well known prohibitions were being violated weekly by quite a number of the members. Intemperance prevailed to such a degree as to be a baneful fault in the Lodge. This fault Brother Russell set about remedying with a celerity and vigor born of his fervent nature, and within a remarkably short time he brought about reforms in the Lodge, the lasting benefits of which will ever be one of his greatest monuments, and from that day to the day of his death, he was blessed by the sight of the beneficent reforms which he originated and carried out.

He often said that on Lodge nights it was almost impossible for him to remain away from the Lodge when he was within its neighborhood, and at times when he had determined to absent himself, he would find himself almost unconsciously drawn by an irresistible impulse to its meeting place.

Up to within a short time of his decease, he was almost constantly in attendance upon the meetings of the Lodge, and he was ever foremost among its active and influential members, and his great influence will ever continue to be felt by the Lodge.

Brother Russell became a member of Florida Encampment No. 1, at its institution on June 29, 1876, and remained a member until the Encampment became defunct. Upon the reorganization of the Encampment in 1892, Brother Russell did not become a member, being at that time in Tallahassee attending to his duties as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

AUGUST, 1878.

A *Times-Union* Reporter passing along Market street found that extensive alterations and repairs were being made on the old and venerable Odd Fellows' Hall. Major A. J. Russell, whom we found in charge and superintending the work, invited us in, and became warmly enthusiastic as he related the history of the old building and of the Order of Odd Fellows, who for so many years have regularly attended meetings within its walls. We discovered that the charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of the United States, March 9, 1841, at the town of Black Creek. The Lodge was moved to Jacksonville in 1844, and was the most pretentious

building in the place for many years. The lower story was the only hall in town. For many years it was the site of the only school.

One of the most pleasing pieces of information we received was a description of the work of the Odd Fellows here. Hundreds of their brethren from the more rigid North find their way down to our health-restoring climate in search of health, and are received and ministered to by these Florida brothers, and many cases of suffering and despondency are relieved and encouraged, thus exemplifying beautifully the doctrine of universal brotherhood, which they so fully teach. They have in contemplation the erection of an *asylum* for the reception and entertainment of these, to be located on their beautiful lot, corner of Adams and Market streets, under one of the most elegant of our many street groves of water oaks. Thus quietly and almost unknown in our midst moves steadily forward a noble work of charity and fraternal love, not vaunting itself, but doing more to set forth the fact that in the South the man of the North may find his stranger brother and be received and entertained as a member of the one common household, and a child of the one common father. Long live and flourish the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in our community.

A meeting of the Grand Lodge, April 4, 1887, and Grand Encampment at Tallahassee.

The feature of the banquet was the masterly oration delivered by Major A. J. Russell on the principles and truth of the Order, which will be ever remembered by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS.

Odd-Fellowship is founded upon the eternal principle which recognizes man as a constituent of one universal brotherhood, and teaches him, that as he came from the hands of common parents, he is bound to cherish and protect his fellow man.

From this principle we learn to regard the Great Author of our existence as our Father, in whom we live, move, and have our being, and recognize man as the masterpiece of his work, and designed as such to reflect, in our nature and relations, the image of Him after whose likeness he was formed.

With the divisions and classifications of humane society our Order holds no fellowship, while it inculcates a veneration for religion, and subordination to Civil Government and its laws, it studiously avoids all affinity with systems of faith or sects, whether religious or political.

We are taught the first step, to learn then and forever that we cannot become Odd Fellows in spirit and in truth, unless we are grateful to our Creator, faithful to our Country and fraternal to our fellow man.

We meet at our Lodge rooms for mutual Counsel, the relief of distress, and the elevation of human character. Strife and discord, party and sect, which create heartburnings and divisions among men are banished by our laws.

We give battle to vice in all its forms, Friendship toward man prompts the conflict, Love supplies the weapons, while Truth consecrates the effort and leads to victory.

The reign of love is only needed to make our world of mankind what it should be, and restore man to the likeness in which he was first created. When this shall come to pass, as it surely will, then the selfishness which now curses our earth shall be banished, or so trained and subdued as to make it minister to human love and human happiness.

Greed of gain, the piling up of massive fortunes, so-called, for really they are misfortunes, have so taken possession of mankind, and alas! this in the most populous, most refined and most cultured parts of the land, that the great truth of a universal brotherhood of man, under the one Fatherhood of God, is scoffed at, and one looks at his brother-man who is the child of misfortune, with scorn and contempt, and says as he passes by let him do as I have done. It is just such a state of things in various stages of human development that has driven men to band or associate themselves together sometimes to protect and aid themselves, sometimes to resist in vengeful ire those whom they imagine are oppressing them, right here we touch upon one of the great economic questions agitating the economists of the day and have given the key to the solution. Were mutual love enthroned in sweet and sympathetic reign and sway, all this would be swept away and the strikes, the riots, the threatened anarchy of the present day would cease and peace and harmony prevail, a still more brilliant system

of achievements would be the result.

Odd-Fellowship has from its inception held aloft to a gazing mankind the Banner of Universal Friendship, Love and Truth, and for Seventy-four years has waged a persuasive war for the enthronement of Love. It wars against all evil in the interest of mankind. Friendship toward man prompts the contest. Love consecrated, supplies the weapons, and Truth leads to victory.

An unfair critic will say, aha! You discount the church and offer a substitute. It is false. *True*; Odd-Fellowship holds no allegiance with creeds or sectarianism, and enters into no discussion as to whether this, that or another creed or doctrine is correct. Such discussion in her sacred retreats would but breed discord and violate harmony, and at last disrupt her Lodges. Odd-Fellowship reveres and loves true Religion, believes in God as the Father of us all, and His Word is always to be found in her Lodges, and her magnificent ritual is taken almost wholly from both books, the Old and the New Testament.

All political strife or party acrimony are banished without her walls; her sons of whatever sect or party meet as equals upon her floors; her theme is Love, Relief, and her commands to her subjects to visit and minister to the sick, to bury the dead, and to educate the orphan.

With clean hands and pure hearts should men come to such a work as this, and should a brother so far wander as to violate or neglect these duties and will not hearken to the voice of Fraternal admonition he must atone to the offended law. The Lodge must be purged of all discordant elements and be clean.

Upon such a basis its growth has been commensurate with that of our glorious country, its achievements in its own chosen field have not been exceeded by those of the world of science, invention or discovery. The hopelessness driven away, the orphans wail hushed, and the stricken hearts soothed, can never

be known what this Fraternity have achieved, until the Eternal Record of God shall have been opened and read of all spirits.

John Wildy and his few associates in 1819, establishing a Lodge of Odd Fellows in the city of Baltimore. What a forlorn hope then, and yet, behold the results now, achieved in so short a life time!

This is a grand and noble Order of which we, my brothers, are an integral part, and as far as our character and demeanor goes are the custodians of its fair escutcheon.

GAINESVILLE, FLA., March 17, 1896.

To the Grand Lodge of Florida, I. O. O. F., and all Contributing Jurisdictions and Friends of the Florida National Home and Sanitarium.

The Trustees in presenting an annual report of their session for the past year, have regarded it as a matter of interest to the whole Order to collect all the important data relating to the Home from its first inception, and earnest efforts on the part of Florida Lodge, No. 1, Jacksonville, Florida, down to the annual report of this year.

It does not appear to be other than just to state that the brethren of Jacksonville who *originated* the plan of a Home, such as is frequently and faithfully set forth in our Grand Lodge Journals, and by stirring appeals of the Order everywhere, did under continuous discouragement and generally regarded impossibilities, manifest a spirit of confidence and devotion seldom, if ever surpassed by any organization. The membership in the State when the Home was first suggested, numbered less than three hundred, as found in seven Lodges, located in extreme portions of the State.

The establishment of a Home for the sick of other Jurisdictions, many of whom annually found their way to Jacksonville, and placing themselves under the care of Florida Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F., thereby greatly increasing their burdens, made necessary some plan of relief, other than usually provided by our Order at that time. The twenty years efforts as here collected, show fully the object and final development of this cherished sentiment.

Here we have to do honor to the memory of one, whose

service was not only *first* and *continuous*, but enthusiastic and invaluable.

Brother A. J. Russell was Chairman of nearly every Committee relating to the Home during its proposed establishment, and its final dedication, when he insisted upon being relieved from further labor in its behalf.

His most eloquent appeals as herein embodied, whenever and wherever called upon, indicate a cheerful and faithful devotion to the Home cause ; an abiding confidence in his fellow man, a deep sympathy for suffering humanity.

Brother Russell was a man of great courage and kind heart. By long and faithful labor he endeared himself to his brethren, who greatly acknowledge his power and worth. With an abiding faith in a blessed immortality, and a heart full of love for man and God, he passed over the river.

His labors of love are inscribed upon our hearts, we cherish his memory.

ODD FELLOW'S HOME.

*In August last the brethren at Jacksonville, conceived the idea of establishing in that city a Home for indigent Odd Fellows, that come to spend the winter in our mild climate. The brethren of Jacksonville, prompted by the desire of doing good, organized themselves into what I will term an Odd Fellows' Aid Society, elected officers and sent out agents to raise means to build the Home. They called on me for an approval or endorsement of their acts before going abroad to get the means.

When the Home was first started we thought the money could be raised within our own Jurisdiction, but the Trustees soon found that it would be necessary to go abroad to get sufficient means to enable them to do any good ; and believing it was more particularly for the benefit of our brethren of the Northern States that come South to get away from the freezing

*Report of 1876.

winters of the North and West, they sent agents to solicit aid. In some Jurisdictions these agents were prevented by local laws, and could not proceed without special indorsement from this office, and to each and all of these calls I responded to enable the agents to proceed in the good work they had begun.

The following circular was sent to all of the Lodges in the United States :

HALL OF FLORIDA LODGE NO. 1, I. O. O. F., }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Aug. 5, 1875. }

To Odd Fellows Wherever Dispersed, Greeting :

BROTHERS:—Our city is the temporary home of thousands who, in search of either health or pleasure, come to our State ; who throng our streets, hotels and boarding houses.

Among these are many of our brethren whom fell disease has attacked, and who, hearing of our life-giving and health-restoring climate, gather together all they have, and after leaving but a poor provision for loved ones at home, make their way down to our State with scarcely enough to bring them here. True, they bring with them their cards providing for their benefits, and one among our greatest delights is to honor their calls, advance their benefits, and minister to their wants ; but their benefits do not meet their expenses, and they must needs suffer inconveniences, and in many instances, want—much more, medical advice, all this we propose to provide, and though we have tried faithfully to do our duty, yet our own means are limited, and we regretfully fail in doing what our hearts desire.

In view of these facts we have resolved to build an Asylum, that shall be a home of comfort and ease for all invalid Odd Fellows who may find it necessary to quit the rigorous climate of the more Northern latitude, and seek relief with us, upon such terms as their regular weekly benefits will fully cover.

Now, brethren, we ask you to aid us in the establishment of such a home. A small donation on the part of each Odd Fellow will sum up a sufficient amount to build the house and handsomely endow it.

We propose to furnish the lot which we have already got, and which is most eligibly situated in the most desirable and beautiful part of our city, and do all else in our power to advance it.

Ours is the only Lodge in all the Eastern part of our State, and our members are in reduced circumstances, and this, much to our regret, forces us to ask aid, to this, we think, most laudable undertaking.

We have fully organized, and have elected a Board of Trustees, and are earnestly desirous of having the Home in operation for the coming winter.

All communications should be addressed to Philip Walter, Secretary of the Trustees, Lock Box 129, Jacksonville, Fla. By order of the Trustees.

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER, }
MONTICELLO, FLA., Aug. 9, 1875. }

The action of Florida Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F., in the foregoing circular is hereby approved, and I would recommend the same to the Lodges throughout the Order.

J. B. COLLINS,
Grand Master.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Aug. 10, 1875.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of Florida Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F., held this evening.

Resolved, That, as a Lodge, we do most heartily endorse the above named Trustees in their noble work, and ask the assistance of all true Odd Fellows.

Yours in friendship, love and truth,
W. M. MCINTOSH, JR., Secretary.

The following circular, issued by the trustees of the proposed Odd Fellows' Home, was sent by Florida Lodge No. 1, to C. C. Pearce, Grand Representative, to be read and laid before the Grand Lodge of the United States, at its session of 1876.

HALL OF FLORIDA LODGE No. 1, I. O. O. F., }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Sept. 1, 1876. }

To the R. W. Grand Sire, Officers and Members R. W. G. L. U. S.:

DEAR BRETHREN:—During the last fall (in November, 1875), our Lodge, considering the approach of the season when so many of our brethren from the North, East and great Northwest seek our beautiful and healthy climate for the restoration of broken constitution, and shattered health, and knowing from an experience of the past ten years, how much deprivation and mental and heart suffering most of these endured because of the scanty store of money provided for them, and their consequent inability to supply themselves with those things so necessary for the invalid, determined to build a Home, that should be known forever as the Invalid Odd Fellows' Home or Asylum to which he might go, and in which he might find all those comforts and conveniences so much needed without feeling that he was receiving the cold charities of an outside world, but enjoying a cheerfully bestowed bounty from a fondly loved Brotherhood

In order to accomplish this we found it necessary to apply to the Brotherhood at large for aid in building the house, our Lodge having first obtained one of the finest lots in the most eligible and central part of our city. But in making application we made a mistake, which arose in our misconstruction of the law upon the point, we believing that it was only necessary to have the consent of our Grand Master in order to authentically circulate our applications. For this blunder we ask pardon. And now we propose to go at our work correctly, and see if through the generous aid of our brethren everywhere we cannot accomplish our glorious work, and here we may beg leave to say, dear brethren, that this is not so much a local as a national work, as it relates to our Order. There are to-day hundreds, if not thousands, of living witnesses spread throughout our broad land, who can and will testify of the great work we are permitted, in the providence of God as a Lodge to do

here; and, alas, many a name upon the roll of the dead, who, if they could, would bear a soul-stirring testimony to the glorious work of our Order as illustrated in our far off Lodge. This privilege, brethren, is our joy, our chiefest delight in connection with our Lodge and its affairs, but alas! we are often pained when we are unable to do all we see so much needed. *We are the only Lodge in all the Eastern part of Florida*, except a young Lodge recently chartered, and therefore of the greatest importance to the traveling Odd Fellow, whether in pursuit of health or pleasure. Our city is the *entrepot* for all the vast amount of travel that makes its way to our State during the winter; our hotels and boarding-houses are filled to crowding; how is the poor brother whose aid entitles him to but five dollars, or at most seven or eight, to get accommodations; and if he does, it requires every cent he has to pay simply for board; and with what will he pay his other absolutely necessary expenses, to say nothing of those delicacies and comforts which are so necessary to the one suffering from sickness? Now, in our Asylum we propose to make a Home for such, in which all these are to be supplied, together with careful nursing and medical attention, for just what their cards authorize, whether it be one dollar or five.

Some may think we are seeking this for our own aid. In order to disabuse their minds, we will give a brief account of our own State. One of our Board, who had been appointed to gather as much of the history of our Lodge as he could, in searching the records, found that in an average membership of sixty-five for ten years since the war, we had in that time buried only two members of our own, and though we pay \$5 per week benefits, the total sick benefits paid in all the ten years reached the small aggregate of \$535.

We have not a single widow or orphan knocking at our doors for aid. We own our Lodge room, which we have comfortably fitted up, and are in receipt of some rents. So, brethren, you perceive that under the infinite kindness of an ever-loving

Providence, we are in a very good and prosperous condition. No, brethren, our appeal is in behalf of your own unfortunate, your own stricken, your own poor, and if you will aid us in preparing as we desire, for their comfort, you will be building up for yourselves and our Order a monument, memories of which will survive time itself, because many a spirit which shall pass away, having enjoyed its comforts will bear testimony of your kindness and your love, and the Judge shall say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Now, we earnestly ask the endorsement and recommendation of the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States and the aid of its members in obtaining the consent of the various Grand Masters and also that our venerable and well-beloved Brother Ridgley, G. S., furnish us with a list of them, together with such information as he may deem necessary to our success. And we remain your Brothers in Friendship, Love and Truth.

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

The purpose of Major A. J. Russell in going to Baltimore recently, was to procure the endorsement of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows in regard to the proposed "Home," so that the Brotherhood at large could be appealed to in aid of the undertaking. The ground for the institution was bought some time ago, and with the above endorsement, Major Russell thinks there is no question but that the building will soon be erected.

APRIL 6, 1877.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Florida :

BRETHREN:—Two years ago the brethren of Florida Lodge No. 1, feeling the pressing need of means to minister to the wants of sick visiting brethren other than those provided by the law—in order that their wants might be supplied—conceived the idea of building an Asylum, which should at once become a home for the invalid, in which he should have those comforts, hygienic as well as dietetic, which are so essentially necessary to the sick.

For this purpose we had already a suitable lot—indeed, a

lot as eligibly situated as to comfort and beauty of site as any in the city, as many of you know—and in order to erect a suitable building we organized a Board of Trustees and proceeded to issue a circular (permission from our Grand Master having been obtained) to all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the United States. A few of these responded in the most noble manner to the amount of \$200, and many others expressed their complete willingness to do so if the consent of the Grand Master of their respective Jurisdictions were obtained.

This led us to discover a serious mistake we had made by a misconstruction of the law as enacted by the M. W. Grand Lodge of the United States, in which we found such a requirement of consent absolutely necessary.

Then we, by letter, sought the consent of the Grand Masters of several States, from some of whom I received partially favorable replies, and from others almost insult. This we have patiently borne, hoping to obtain the ear of the fountain-head of the Order through our Grand Representative, and during the session at Philadelphia, in the midst of a mighty tidal wave of Centennial gush, when we were led to believe human and national fraternity were to reach their acme. We watched for the introduction of our cause to its attention, but we were amazed as we received the closing sheets of the proceedings—we had not been mentioned! We were at a loss to know why this was until we *indirectly* heard that such a matter coming from private members could not be received; it must come from a Grand Lodge; and for the first time in a membership of twenty-five years for some of us, we learned that there was, after all, a sort of aristocracy in our beloved Order. And this brings us, dear brethren, with our appeal for the sick and impoverished brothers all over our broad country to you, asking your indorsement that we may properly and fully obtain the aid and assistance we so much desire in order to accomplish, we believe, one of the grandest things for Odd Fellow-

ship in our Jurisdiction that has ever been done, as well as for the Order everywhere.

We are a cosmopolitan as well as a metropolitan city, and are the great *entrepot* for all the vast travel that flows to our State, and going to Jacksonville has become synonymous with going to Florida, and our invalid brothers all over the country find their way to us, and realize the existence of a single Lodge here, as in times past, a very God-send; and we are in a position to realize the necessity for such a provision for those sick ones more keenly than our brothers in any other part of the State. Our address prepared for the M. W. Grand Lodge is in possession of the R. W. Grand Secretary, Brother J. W. Whitney, and will fully set forth our reasons in detail.

And now, brothers, we earnestly ask you to take into consideration this matter, and place it in such a light before the Grand Lodge of the United States as that it shall have its endorsement and reach every Lodge in America and the Canadas. Ten cents from every Odd Fellow will enable us to erect such a Home as will gladden the heart and inspire the courage of many a sick and heavy one, and endow it with a fund sufficient to conduct it in such a manner as will reflect credit upon our whole Order.

Fraternally yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., APRIL 1, 1878.

The report of the Trustees of the proposed Odd Fellows' Home, found in the compilation of proceedings, page 20, closes with the following :

Your Trustees are resolved to push this good work to completion by the beginning of the next rigorous season, and when it shall have been accomplished we feel that a monument, not only to Florida Odd Fellows, but to the Odd Fellows of the Independent Order everywhere, will have been erected, more honorable than all the statues of bronze or stone that our

country has known, because it will be a place for ministering to the sick, for the assuagement of sorrow, and the relief of the afflicted and distressed.

Invoking the aid of the one common Father of us all upon our good work, we are, brethren, yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ODD FELLOWS' HOME. }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 1, 1879. }

*To the M. W. Grand Master, Officers and Members of Trustees,
R. W. G. L. I. O. O. F. of Florida.*

BRETHREN: As Chairman of the above Board of Trustees I would beg leave to make the following report:

We regret deeply to report the fact that so little aid has been received from the Fraternity abroad that we have not felt authorized to commence the erection of our building which we feel must be of such dimensions and capacity as to require some ten or twelve thousand dollars to erect, furnish and equip such a house for invalid Odd Fellows as we think would reflect credit upon the order and meet the demands for which it is designed. We were in receipt of generous donations from various Lodges until the breaking out of the yellow fever in the Southwest, since which time our Secretary has received but very little, and the whole matter seems to be at a standstill.

We earnestly hope that the Grand Lodge will take such steps as will bring the matter forcibly to the attention of the Fraternity, everywhere, and that our representatives may be instructed to bring this matter to the attention of the Grand Lodge of the United States, at its next session, in such manner as will cause the members to take an interest in the house and to disabuse their minds of any idea (if any such idea should exist) that this is a personal matter or of a mere local nature, but that it is as wide in its aims as is the Order in its extent.

Accompanying this will be found the Secretary and Treas-

urers report showing the financial transaction of the Board and the amount of funds on hand.

We would again earnestly beg the Grand Lodge to take such steps as will bring this matter to the attention of the whole Fraternity.

Fraternally submitted,
ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

OFFICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ODD FELLOWS' HOME. }
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 14, 1880. }

*To the Most Worthy Grand Master, Officers and Members of the
Grand Lodge of Florida, I. O. O. F.*

BROTHERS: We deeply regret to report but little progress in the consummation of our cherished desire, the erection of the Home for invalid traveling Odd Fellows. Since the last meeting of this Grand Lodge but little has been received in the way of aid, the amount of which you will see reported by the Treasurer of the Board.

Our Grand Master has in compliance with your instructions at the last meeting, diligently and earnestly sought to invoke the aid of our sister Grand Jurisdiction with what little success this report will clearly exhibit. We feel satisfied that this enterprise grand in its conception, grander and nobler still, if consummated in its work and relief, is not understood and we believe the characteristic and natural generosity and liberality is hedged about by grand official interference, or else the individual Fraternity would have long since cheerfully given the amount necessary to build the Home, for a small pittance from each Odd Fellow personally would do the work without touching the the Treasuries of the Lodges at all. We again urge the Grand Lodge to press this matter to the attention of the brotherhood, and confidently hope for final success,

Fraternally,
A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

OFFICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ODD FELLOWS' HOME. }
 JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 11, 1880. }

*To the M. W. Grand Master and Members of M. W. Grand Lodge
 of I. O. O. F., of Florida :*

BRETHREN: I sincerely regret that as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Odd Fellows' Home, I have nothing to report in the way of advancement and progress of the proposed work. We have failed of that hearty response we so confidently expected from the great heart of Odd-Fellowship an expectation founded upon observation made during a membership of many years; we are of the opinion, however, that this failure is the result of the hedging about the mutual charity of the individual Brotherhood by what may be properly called upper legislation. We feel assured that if we could be permitted to make our appeal to the Lodges and the members and truthfully show forth the cause and necessity for it, an outflow more than sufficient to accomplish this great work of fraternal sympathy and kindly regard would flow out as an offering upon the altar of Odd-Fellowship.

But this privilege is denied us, and we must await the time when such access will be granted us.

But very little correspondence has been had during the last year, and no contributions from any source. As to the amount on hand and safely invested, I refer you to the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary.

I would recommend that the Board be continued in its work and that the Grand Lodge continue its work in every laudable effort to erect and endow this great monument to the heart fraternity of Odd Fellows.

Fraternally submitted, A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

HALL GRAND LODGE I. O. O. F.. }
 TALLAHASSEE, April 12, 1887. }

*To the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge
 I. O. O. F. of Florida :*

BRETHREN: The Trustees of the Odd Fellows' Home in

Florida beg to report that they have been constantly at work during the recess of the Grand Lodge, preparing such arrangements, plans and specifications as will enable them to present the highly laudable and fraternal enterprise which they have in hand, in so simple and intelligible a manner as that it shall be easily understood and appreciated by all.

To this end we have had prepared plans and specifications setting forth the buildings, with the inner arrangements and elevations. In doing this we have had special reference to hygiene, as related to ventilation, sanitary regulations, bathing, sleeping, and the perfection of diet.

The rooms are to be supplied with water, heating apparatus, and other conveniences and necessities. The estimated cost of the building is eighteen thousand dollars. (\$18,000).

The Trustees ask if one single brother should be restored to health and returned to the bosom of his family at his old home, what would this expenditure be compared with such a blessing? That this may be done and the sufferings of hundreds of brethren alleviated, is beyond cavil or doubt.

We submit herewith the plans which, though not entirely complete, will fully convey what is proposed to be done, and earnestly ask you, brethren, to take such action at this session as will impress the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the unselfish highly fraternal object we have in view, and constrain them to take such action as will call forth a universal co-operation on the part of our vast Brotherhood.

Fraternally submitted,
A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

MEMORIAL.

To the Grand Sire, Officers and Members of the Sovereign Grand Lodge I. O. O. F.:

BROTHERS: By instruction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Florida, we again approach you through our representatives and submit this memorial in behalf of the building of

the Home at Jacksonville, Fla., for sick and suffering Odd Fellows of the whole Order, to your kind and fraternal consideration to better enable us to carry out in practice the principles, tenets and teachings of our noble Order and to bring solace, comfort and relief to our afflicted brethren.

The Odd Fellows of Florida, and especially of Jacksonville, have experienced and are witnessing more and more daily the necessity for such a Home, and have therefore been earnestly desirous and are more so now to erect such a building and equip the same as a refuge for the sick and afflicted brethren of the Order from all over the land, hundreds of whom are yearly seeking the health restoring climate of our State, many of whom we are truly thankful to state, have received the priceless boon of health, while many others have had their lives prolonged and their sufferings ameliorated. Those brethren who are afflicted with pulmonary ailments and with the painful disease emanating from rheumatism, if coming in time, are at once relieved and continue to improve.

Many, many, nearly all of those afflicted brethren are poor, as has been experienced by us, and having gathered all they have of this world's goods and given it to their loved ones at home, wife and children, for their protection and support, have to rely only on their weekly sick benefits when coming to Florida in search of health. We receive them cheerfully and kindly as our hearts know how, and assure them of our watchful care and advance them promptly and regularly their sick benefits, but on account of their financial condition they of necessity, must obtain board at some cheap house, where the food and arrangements are all prepared for robust laboring men, and is, of course unfit for those suffering ones, being therefore deprived of the necessary comforts and luxuries their case may require.

Seeing all this and not wishing them to suffer, Florida Lodge, No. 1, and the individual members have assisted and relieved them, as far as their means went. We are now more

than ever moved, and are anxious to convince the Order at large of the necessity for the erection of such a house and home, which would enable us to furnish these afflicted brethren for their weekly benefits alone, may they be five dollars or less, but not more than five, all the comforts necessary, best medical treatment, wholesome and remedial diet, hygienic and sanitary surroundings.

For these reasons alone, as we must appear before the tried bar of infallible justice, we come to your Sovereign Body and humbly ask that you endorse our fraternal and benevolent movement, and recommend to the several Grand Jurisdictions to second and aid us in our laudable and absolutely necessary undertaking. We do not propose to ask any large sum from any individual Brother or Lodge of Brothers; five cents, only, contributed by each and every member will enable us to erect and fully equip a building, as devised by us; which would meet all of the demands necessary, and would prove a lasting monument to the pure and fraternal sympathy so loudly claimed by our Order. Is there an Odd Fellow in all the world who would not gladly and quietly give so small an amount and yet so grand a one, when aggregated; like the bundle of sticks, when cemented together by the strong ties of fraternal love, become powerful for good. Although *often* discouraged since the conception of this laudable act, we have never ceased our efforts. Our Grand Lodge has made a liberal donation whenever we are ready. Florida Lodge. No. 1, has donated one of the most eligible and desirable lots of land in the city of Jacksonville, 105 feet square, for which said Lodge was repeatedly offered \$10,000, being situated upon one of our main thorough-fares adjoining the Court House and Post-office, commanding a full view of the broad and beautiful St. John's River and the thriving suburb of South Jacksonville, on the opposite shore. Gladly and cheerfully would the Grand Lodge of Florida or Florida Lodge, No. 1, build the Home at their own expense, if their means permitted them to do so, but

they donated to the utmost of their ability.

We have had competent architects, carefully and studiously prepare plans and specifications for our proposed building, and have had expert and responsible builders to estimate the cost of erection and full equipment to be \$25,000, for which amount these contractors have obligated themselves to erect and equip this Home as per plans, specifications and directions of the Board of Trustees, securing them for the faithful performance of their contract by a good and sufficient bond, and when completed and suitably and properly furnished, it will be a Home of comfort indeed, the circumstances surrounding which, will of themselves be promotive of health. Our representatives will submit the plans and specifications for your examination, and will explain all matters pertaining thereto to all desirous of looking into the matter. We wish to state further that this Home after being built and equipped, will be self supporting, which fact we derive from calculations made upon the weekly benefits to be received as set forth before, therefore no uneasiness or apprehension need be felt that we may call upon you for further aid or support. This Home would relieve many of the Lodges of extra expense for many of these sick brethren often find that their weekly stipends will not meet their expenses of board, washing, medicine, medical attention and other necessities, or their pride will not permit them to lay their case before their own Lodge or the Lodge here, they remain at home at a continued expense to the Lodge, and permit the disease to completely prevade their system and come here in search of renewed life when too late. This dreaded expense, liability and hesitation could and would not occur, were the Home established, as all conditions would be met, the fear of above contingencies removed, and brothers in the incipency of their disease would at once avail themselves of the benefit of the Home of our curative climate and health restoring waters, and return home with a new lease of life for the protection of their families, for further usefulness to their

Lodges and Orders and to mankind, and at a large saving of expense to their Lodges. With pride and pleasure we will state for the Odd Fellows of Jacksonville that so far no case of suffering or distress was permitted to exist. All received prompt and cheerful response and aid for the good and glory of our beloved Order.

Several of the most noted physicians of the North and West have investigated our climate and waters—the State abounding in mineral springs and artesian waters of great depths, which are almost as common as the old-fashion well and moss-covered bucket. These physicians pronounced this State the sanatorium of the nation, and especially so for pulmonary and rheumatic disease. Thousands of living witnesses will testify to its truth; and as many more who have lived their allotted time after being benefitted by our climate and passed away over into the great beyond, would doubtless bear testimony to the restorative character of our peculiarly blessed State.

We chiefly and only desire that the Sovereign Grand Lodge shall endorse and recommend the Home to the various Grand Jurisdictions and the Order at large; and if you do not think this to be the right and available plan, then be good enough to suggest some feasible method, which will enable us to bring our appeal direct to the Lodge or Brotherhood where we confidently believe awaits us that kind of response which alone is, expected alike by Odd Fellows as well as the great public, who are not of us, but who hold our Order in high respect and veneration. Do this for us brethren, and we will be ever grateful that we are permitted to do our duty towards our sick and afflicted brethren.

The Odd Fellows of this State, or of Jacksonville, would as stated before, gladly build this Home by their own efforts and we would rejoice in the unfailing honor and pleasure we would hereby insure to ourselves and to the Order; but, alas! we are too poor; too poor to accomplish what our hearts long

to do for our brethren who come suffering and afflicted among us. Thank God, we have been enabled to do some good. There are some cases which will be ever green in our memories, performing everything connected with them with willing hand and open heart. Oh, that we could do more! It is for this that we seek your aid and endorsement.

The Home is not intended as an asylum for aged and infirm, but a refuge and sanitarium for those suffering from a disease or diseases of a chronic type, who long to be cured, that they may return to the robust activities of life, to family and Lodge, and act well their part at last and to the end. That our relations to the whole matter may be more thoroughly understood, we beg to state, that this Home is not designated for the Odd Fellows of Florida, for we have no sick—and they scarcely die, except of old age; but we invite your attention to the following, showing the knowledge and experience which we have derived to induce us to build the Home. Since 1868, the books of Florida Lodge, No. 1, at Jacksonville, show from her visitors register, in their own handwriting, the names of about 2500 brothers representing all States in the Union and the Canadas, mostly all of whom came here in search of health, and from knowledge and facts before us we can say returned home with restored health. A good many more came to our knowledge when death overtook them, and evidence of Odd Fellowship was found among their effects and furnished to Florida Lodge, No. 1, when said Lodge at once took charge and buried such brother with proper ceremonies in their own burial ground, or forwarded the remains to his friends or relatives, thereby preventing his being buried in an unknown grave. Florida Lodge, No. 1, has during this time, expended out of its own funds, in supplying and relieving sick and suffering brethren, in aiding some to return home, in transporting home or burying brothers who have died here, as donations, about \$2000. Now we do not desire to parade this before you, or boast of it, but refer to it in order to show our re-

lations to this peculiar work and to throw a strong light upon our motive in attempting to build this Home for sick Odd Fellows.

Now, out of this large number who have come among us in quest of health during that time, our record only shows fifty deaths—nearly every one of these had waited until the destroyer had fastened upon them irredeemably and no cure was possible. In the last moments of dying hours, there were whispered words of fraternal sympathy, and death was robbed of some of its terror as the brow of the sufferer was bathed and his hand grasped in a fraternal clasp, until the pulse ceased to tell the tale of passing life and all was quiet and repose. There is no danger of repeated calls for the support of this Home, as some may apprehend, as our calculations for its maintenance have been carefully and systematically made, and we find it self-supporting, based upon the weekly benefits alone granted to the afflicted, it can be safely conducted for all time to come. The leading physicians of this city have proffered their medical services free of charge, and the hospitality and generosity of our people when they see such an enterprise inaugurated, will be unsurpassed.

Now, brethren, our prayer and our case is before you. We do not plead for ourselves, we do not need, as already stated such a Home for ourselves. We plead for the sick and helpless brothers at your own doors. We plead that we may be enabled to give them in cheerful comfort that which God himself has given us so bountifully, health and strength.

Fraternally submitted in F. L. & T.

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 10, 1889.

I. O. O. F., HOME OFFICE SECRETARY, }
 Jacksonville, Fla. Nov. 11, 1889. }

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

Enclosed permit me to hand you a memorial of the Board of Trustees for the building of the Odd Fellows' Home in this city for sick and suffer-

ing brethren of the whole Order, which was laid before the Sovereign Grand Lodge at the last session held at Columbus, Ohio, for its endorsement. The same was referred to the Committee on the State of the Order, who, after careful consideration, reported back favorably the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, to-wit:

Representative Dufour, of the District of Columbia, from the Committee on the State of the Order, in considering the Memorial of the Board of Trustees for the building of the Odd Fellows' Home at Jacksonville, Fla., submitted the following report, which was adopted:

"That while the object of the memorial is, indeed, a noble one, and worthy of more than the mere sympathetic regard of all members of the Order, yet, owing to the limitation of the constitutional power of this Grand Body, we are obliged to say that it has absolutely no jurisdiction in the premises—the permission to enter the various State, District or Territorial Jurisdictions, with a view to solicit contributions, is a matter entirely within the control of each Subordinate Grand Jurisdiction.

Your Committee are free, however, to express their cordial sympathy in the enterprise, and unhesitatingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of every Grand Jurisdiction under the Sovereign Grand Lodge."

Under this broad endorsement of our purpose and long cherished desire to minister to the thousands of afflicted brethren from all over our broad land, who seek here restoration of health, strength and a prolonged life, we respectfully and fraternally ask permission of you to obtain the aid we are compelled to have to accomplish our purpose from the Lodges in your Jurisdiction to enable us to erect and furnish this Home and to minister to the comfort, assuage the sorrow and soothe the pain of multitudes of our suffering brethren. If you accord us your permission to lay

our case before your Subordinate Lodges asking assistance, please advise us, and, if agreeable, recommend our action to them officially.

Fraternally yours, F. L. and T.

J. E. AMOLD,

M. ENDEL,

T. J. MOTT;

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman;

J. HUFF, Secretary;

Trustees Odd Fellows' Home.

A compliance with the request of the Trustees of the Odd Fellows' Home will be greatly appreciated by

Yours Fraternally,

J. E. AMOLD, Grand Master of Florida.



HALL OF GRAND LODGE, I. O. O. F. OF FLA., }
PENSACOLA, March, 18, 1890. }

The Grand Master, Warden and Members of the G. L. I. O. O. F. of Florida :

BRETHREN : The Trustees of the Odd Fellows' Home of Florida beg to submit the following report of their work and its conditions.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge at its session held September, 1889, formally endorsed and recommended our project of a Home to the brethren of the Order throughout the Jurisdiction as worthy the sympathy and aid of the Order.

As soon as we were officially informed of this fact, we commenced work in good earnest. A circular letter of application was prepared, in accordance with the law, asking the Grand Masters of all the Jurisdictions permission to circulate our requests to the Subordinate Lodges throughout the United States and the Canadas; application was made to the Sovereign Grand Secretary for the organization of all the Grand Lodges, and to the Grand Secretary for the roll of Lodges subordinate in their respective Jurisdictions. Prompt, courteous and fraternal responses came from all these officers, placing your Trustees under obligations to them and magnificently illustrating the spirit of brotherly love and fraternal intercourse so universally characteristic of our beloved Order.

As soon as the replies were received circular letters of application setting forth our objects and aim were prepared and mailed to the Subordinate Lodges; directions being given to direct their letters conveying their contributions to the National Bank of Jacksonville, the officers of which having consented to act as depositary for the Trustees.

The amount of work has been great, and has been almost solely performed by the Secretary *pro tem.*, Jacob Huff, without hope of fee or reward, save the conscientiousness of the good work in which he is engaged.

The precaution taken to have one of the leading banks of

the city become the recipient of all funds donated, and to hold them until drawn upon by the Chairman of the Board and countersigned by the Secretary, for the purpose of building, is a guarantee of prudence and safety sufficient to satisfy all parties concerned.

Already 5,000 letters have been sent to Subordinate Lodges and others are being mailed as rapidly as the work can be done. Replies have been received from 200 of these Lodges, enclosing contributions to the amount of \$1,300, speaking far more beautifully and strongly than mere words or protestations of adherence to the principles and tenets of the Order, for these are founded on the eternal principles of Truth and Love, embraced in the law of Universal Brotherhood of Man, and can only be faithfully illustrated in a lovely practice of them.

The successful erection and completion of this Home, dedicated to the sick brethren of our entire Brotherhood wherever located, will constitute the grandest monument possible to the integrity of the profession of Odd Fellowship to the outside world. The benefits of which to individual suffering brethren, their families and Lodges, will though seen and appreciated by a large number of those who aid, never be summed up until under the ever-unfolding cycles of eternity.

On behalf of the Trustees, I crave the hearty endorsement and sympathy of the Grand Lodge, in order that we may be strengthened and encouraged in our work of Fraternal Love.

Fraternally submitted,

A. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

GRAND LODGE INDEPENDENT ORDER ODD FELLOWS, }
GAINESVILLE, FLA., March 17, 1891. }

To the Worthy Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. of Florida,

BRETHREN: It becomes my duty to again report the condition and progress of our Odd Fellows' Home. A large number of the Lodges of the United States and Canadas have for-

mally given consent to enter their respective Jurisdictions with our solicitations for aid in accomplishing our enterprise, while but few have refused.

The immense work of placing ourselves in correspondence with so vast and widely-spread a Brotherhood, has been promptly and faithfully done by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees with a minimum of expense, and at a cost of much time and labor to himself. Responses to these communications and solicitations have not been as rapid or as large as we had hoped, yet at the last time I investigated the condition of the fund, there was deposited in the National Bank of Jacksonville, W. D. Barnett, president, over three thousand dollars, which amount by this time is much increased. Brother Jacob Huff, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, will doubtless make a full and detailed account and report of the work performed, the moneys contributed and received to date.

All contributions of money are directed to be sent direct to the National Bank of Jacksonville, our repository, and the amount sent communicated to the Secretary. We prefer to send a complete list of all contributions, with name and number of Lodge contributing, to the Grand Secretary of each Jurisdiction, with the request that it be published in the proceedings of each Grand Lodge, in order that each Lodge may see the acknowledgments of receipts, and the brethren made aware of the amount contributed by their Jurisdiction. We have no doubt now that we shall be able to erect the Home, and equip and operate it, and realize beyond doubt that blessings untold will follow from it to those of our brethren who most sadly need just such a refuge in the restorative climate of Florida, which has won for its name from an eminent divine, "God's great sanitarium for His American people."

I recommend that the Board be instructed to build the foundations as soon as there shall be sufficient funds to do so and properly protect it, or to invest such funds as may be on hand, in such securities as shall be perfectly sound and safe,

and subject to call at three days notice.

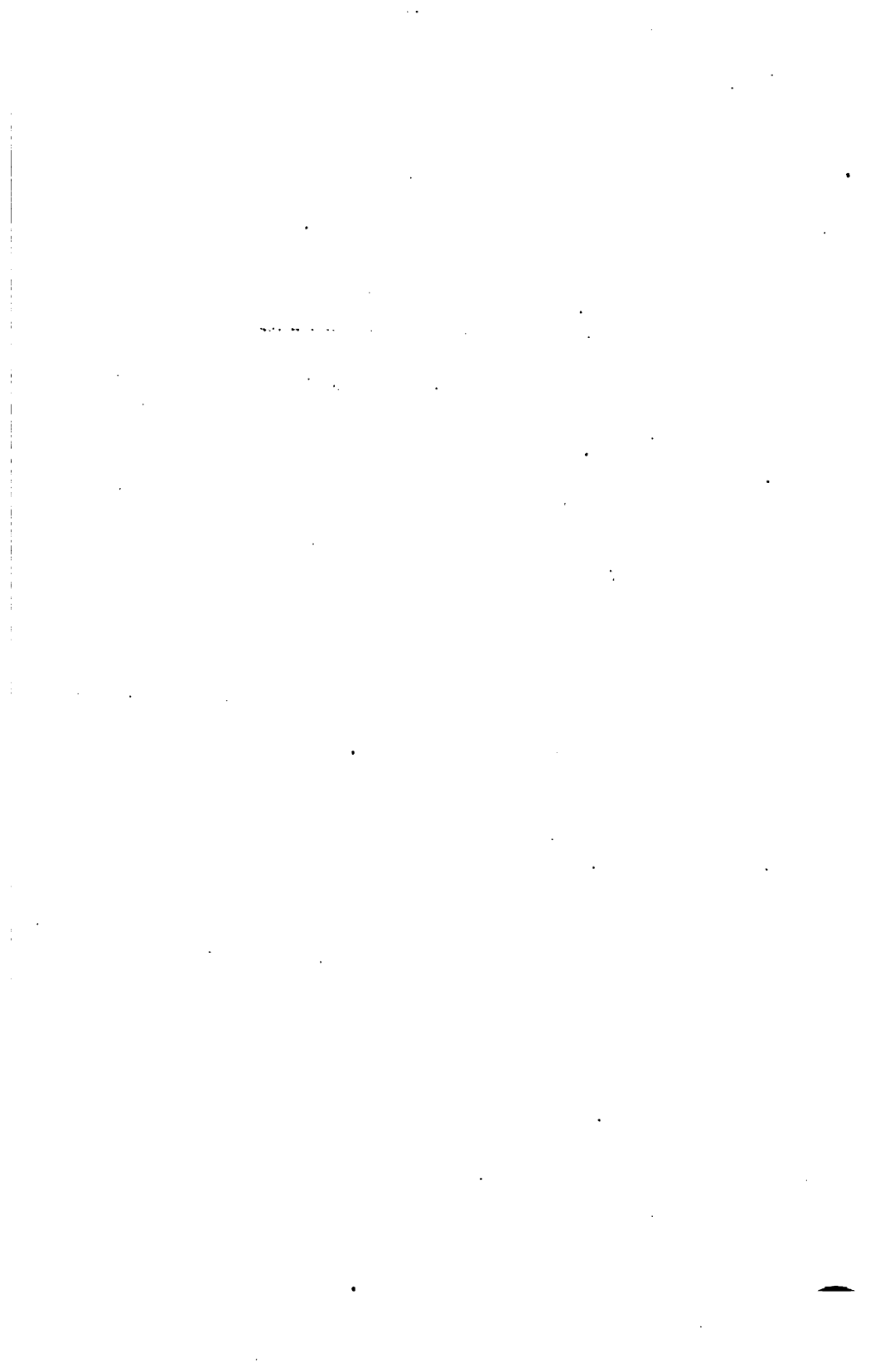
My term as Trustee expires with this session of the Grand Lodge, and I beg to suggest that some brother who has time to more actively and completely enter into this great work be chosen to succeed me. This, I think, would promote the cause.

Deeply regretting my inability to be present at your session, and heartily wishing you a happy and prosperous session, I am

Fraternally yours, ALBERT J. RUSSELL,

President Board of Trustees.







CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP.

CHAPTER XIII.

*Friendship, Love and Truth, These Virtues Practiced
Lift Man to a Hight, next to God Himself.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, }
FLORIDA AND NATIONAL HOME AND SANITARIUM, }
I. O. O. F., JACKSONVILLE, Sept. 5, 1893. }

DEAR BRETHREN:—In the midst of the days of gala joys participated in by such a throng of our Order, we have thought a souvenir, calling to mind and touching the heart of every true Odd Fellow, would be timely, and offer an opportunity of far more lasting and richer joy to all whose hearts may be reached and whose sympathies are awaked and enlisted.

Therefore, we have prepared and extend you this little souvenir of this great day and time, this mighty day of reunion of the HOSTS OF ODD FELLOWSHIP, at the gates of the Temples erected in commemoration of a discovery that has given the world of mankind a new *Nation* of absolute freedom and a liberty of thought, speech and activities never before enjoyed by man, a grand object lesson on self-government swung out by God's own hand, illustrating the divine idea of human government, the brightest, and strongest, freest, most wonderful child of our *Christian civilization*, the civilization of the nineteenth century. All men should rejoice, but especially should Odd Fellows be glad. Sixty-nine years ago when our country was young, ere the mighty strides had been taken which extended our borders from ocean to ocean, ere the grand States of Texas and California had been added to our glorious

*Maj. A. J. Russell, in a neat little souvenir prepared for distribution at the reunion held in Milwaukee, Wis., during the summer of 1893, states the causes which led to the original plan of such a Sanitarium and Home. It was sent to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago and distributed on Odd Fellows' Day.

galaxy of star-sheened States, a mere handful of men, wanderers from their native land, doubtless in search of homes and fortune, met and filled with memories of the old home, and its social enjoyments, specially of their Lodge meetings, resolved to organize a Lodge in the city of Baltimore, from which, behold a mighty growth, our numbers have increased until counted by hundreds of thousands, our beautiful temples have been reared all over the land, our songs are heard every night in the week, and are sung to the same old familiar tunes at the same hour in every State, city and town. Millions of the bereaved and sorrowing have been relieved, the cry of distress has been hushed, dark-winged despondency has been driven away and humanity has been blessed ; is this not a wonderful reverie to be enjoyed in the midst of the display of to-day?

It is in keeping with this national growth of our beloved Order, that this souvenir goes forth upon its mission of love and charity.

Given of God, our Father, as a garden of health, of balmy air, of glorious sunshine, to our whole county, is *Florida*, the unique and beautiful, the one State in which a responseful, *al fresco* life may be enjoyed, especially by the sons and daughters of our land, whose vital organs have been touched by the fevered hand of disease. Florida, of which one of our Grand Sires wrote, in 1845, in stating that he had granted a dispensation for a Lodge, *the present Florida Lodge No. 1*, as in "that far off region, the Territory of Florida," now the home of the "golden apples of the Hesperides, of all luscious fruits, and singing birds, of tropic forests, and fragrant flowers, a free *God-given* resort, not only to those who are on pleasure bent, but to the stricken ones, who are seeking so eagerly the restoration of the priceless boon of health." Florida Lodge No. 1, for many years the only Lodge on the eastern coast, located in the chief city of the State, was of course made familiar with the sufferings, wants and longings of this latter class, her weekly meetings were constantly the scenes of this woe, this disease, this

home-sickness, and yet this determination to stay, and with God's blessing, win back their health, and this moved the hearts of several brethren of Florida Lodge to try and build a Home for these unfortunate ones; a Home, indeed, where such simple comforts and attentions which were most needed could be ministered to them. With strong hope and faith they launched their feeble enterprise and appealed to the brethren for help all over the land. Some responded, and some declined, until at length the whole matter was turned over to the Grand Lodge of Florida, thinking that perhaps a more solid endorsement should be had. For fifteen years the struggle has been continued, and at last day breaks, and we are building a beautiful home of architectural beauty, and perfect home-like arrangements, to be located at Gainesville, Fla., an interior city situated in the midst of a fertile country in the resinous pineries.

The cost of this structure is \$16,000, and to furnish and equip it will cost about \$2,000 more. Of this amount, Florida has given the lot of land upon which it is built, in the city limits, and \$6,000, while the other Jurisdictions have contributed about \$3,600, leaving to be raised about \$7,000 to complete it and meet all contingencies over and above the building and furnishings.

Florida will contribute still, but we must ask for further aid from our brethren all over the United States and the Canadas, and in doing so we feel we are asking for that in which your own brethren will be almost the sole participants and beneficiaries, *for the Home is indeed a National Home; its very inception was in the interest of the afflicted ones who come winter after winter seeking as we have said, the priceless boon of Health*, their cases appealing to us here for a better care, surer advantages than, as a Lodge, we could possibly give them, and yet there are hundreds still on this side of the dark river who will cheerfully bear witness to renewed hopes in the experience of recovered vigor and comparative health, and hundreds more

who have passed over have already borne testimony to the fraternal regard and sympathy extended them in their sojourn with us, and sometimes, alas! in the comfort rendered during the awful moments of the last conflict.

So, brethren, as we rejoice in the midst of all the wonders of the progress made round about us and the pleasures of our reunion in the Queen City of the West, let us contribute of our substance to those of our brethren who cannot enter into our joys, and when we return to our Lodges, urge through the proper and authorized channels that they send some contribution toward this Home and Sanitarium, in the interest of our afflicted brothers. A liberal gift from each brother will constitute a fund sufficient to complete and endow the Home for all time to come, and aid in making it what it should be, a Home indeed.

Let all contributions be sent direct to the National Bank of Jacksonville, W. B. Barnett, depository.

Fraternally, ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
President for the Trustees.

*GRAND MASTER AND BROTHERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—
I had not expected to make an address on this delightful occasion, but had, rather, expected to quietly enjoy the fruit of several years of labor and anxiety while my brethren reveled in the triumph and success; but I feel that I must respond to your call and say at least a few words.

Four hundred years ago, this great Columbian year, this magnificent continent which we now occupy was the home of the savage red man and the but little more savage and ferocious beastly denizens of the forests—a continent evidently, all there is upon and in it, designed for an eminently higher and more glorious occupant, varied in its topography by

*The corner-stone was laid November 15, 1893. At the conclusion of Mr. Carter's fine address, and in response to repeated calls, Major Russell made these remarks.

mountain range, hill and valley, watered by magnificent rivers flowing from north to south, from south to north, from east to west, and from west to east, refreshing the earth and giving birth and growth to beautiful bouquets of forest flowers and fruits, upon which sweet warblers make their airy homes and take their sustenance, rejoicing all animate things around them.

Four hundred years ago scientific study and observation had led men to the truth of the rotundity of our earth; men had been led to the theory that to sail from the shores of the Eastern Hemisphere due west would lead to a new world of land; and Christopher Columbus, supported by the faith and generosity of a noble woman, undertook the great voyage of discovery, and for the first time the feet of civilized man were to tread the soil of our new world. The discovery made, all the world of man was in wonder, and eager to partake in the enriching benefits of the new and great discovery.

Neither time nor preparation will admit of my entering into even a part of all the details of development following.

Interests to-day centers upon our own glorious country and its advancement, achievements and specially in that of our beloved Order.. How wondrous the development of our own land and country; its first settlers, how strange, composed of groups of religious enthusiasts, if not fanatics, seeking untrammelled regions where, unmolested by established State church law and rule, they could worship. This state of things, as contemplated, springs the question in every thoughtful mind, how out of this incongruous clashing element can come harmony, union, unmarred liberty and fraternity?

The rigorous Puritan at Plymouth Rock, the stolid Dutchman at Staten Island, the Lutheran Swede, Norwegian and Dane, along the Jersey coast, Penn and his Quakers at the Keystone of the Union arch, Baltimore with his peculiar type of Catholics in Maryland, the more adventurous cavalier in the Virginias, the Huguenots of the Carolinas, the free-thinking and

Oglethorpe in Georgia and the more thorough Romanist in "las Floridas"—such were the groups of first settlers of our land. Who could expect from these the union of courage, patriotism and self-sacrifice so necessary to the establishment of such a country, with such a mission before it as had this land of ours?

Oh! the infinite nation-builder. He who pulleth down and buildeth up as His great purposes and ends are faithfully wrought out by His agent, man, knew the material he was selecting. He knew what kind of men and women were best calculated to stand and bear the unequaled hardships, suffering and danger that these were called upon to endure; and, behold, the wondrous outcome, a nation the most tolerant and liberal of all the nations of the earth in religions, civil and political liberties. A continent has been subdued; a nation expanded from sea to sea and grasping the North and the South, its people now told in the almost hundreds of millions; its achievements, in science, in discovery, in invention, in war, unequaled by even the hoary headed nations of the old world. With all this wonderful growth there has marched side by side the recognition of the two most essential truths to all true growths. The fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man, the murderous reply of Cain, has been answered in the affirmative in this young country, and human brotherhood, both as a sentiment and fact, has been cherished. Out of this has sprung the establishment of fraternal association, banded together for the purpose of mutual love, aid and sympathy, and have grown apace and have flourished. Prominent among these is the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Born in the city of Baltimore seventy-five years ago, with seven or eight members it now numbers over 800,000 members and expends over \$1,000,000 annually in alleviating suffering, caring for orphanage and tenderly burying the dead. It is in obeying these commands of our Order that we here to-day are laying the corner foundation-stone of a Home, free and welcome to all sick and disabled brothers from whatever State or Territory or other

part of the world they come. To be brief, this idea of a Home originated in the hearts and minds of a very few of the members of Florida Lodge No. 1, located at Jacksonville, in 1875, and in one way or another they have pursued the cherished aim until now, thanks be to our God, the building is begun; the foundation is builded; the corner-stone is laid; the beautiful superstructure will soon appear; and the beautiful Central City will be its keeper and its guard. Here many a stricken one will, if coming in time, win back the precious boon of health and prolonged life; here human Brotherhood will be beautifully and peculiarly illustrated; here in this our God will be glorified and we, dear brethren, shall have that most exquisite jewel of possession, the consciousness of fraternal love and duty done.

May God bless our Home and may many a pale face take back the rose and many a despondent heart be made courageous and hopeful and give the glory to our Father!

At the close the Major was presented with a box of flowers by the Third Grade pupils of the Public School, which offering elicited a few words of thanks and a eulogy on the children in Major Russell's inimitable style.

The large concourse then dispersed, feeling well repaid for the fatigue of standing two hours in the pleasure of hearing two such excellent addresses and the satisfaction of having so successfully accomplished the laying of the corner-stone of the Florida Home for Odd Fellows.

Distinguished guests present were N. C. Pettit, G. R., of Waldo and Major A. J. Russell of Jacksonville.

While Gainesville appreciates and estimates at its full value the importance of the event which has just been celebrated, she realizes, as does the Order generally, that the ceremony of the laying of the corner-stone is but preliminary to the grand celebration to be held at the dedication in next March.

In 1892 the Trustees were well nigh discouraged, the plan of a Home and Sanitarium for the sick and destitute Odd Fellows throughout the United States has been agitated for some years, and many months ago considerable sums were subscribed by the various Lodges for such a purpose. Florida had from the first been the objective point, as a State,

but the precise locality gave rise to much discussion. No definite action was taken until last spring, when it was decided to invite bids, and accept that one which should offer the greatest number of advantages. Amongst the number of competitors Gainesville was finally given the preference—an honor which she accepts with no feeling of triumph, but as a sacred trust from the Order and her sister cities.

In due time the the committee had the lot located for the digging of the foundation, and on November 15, 1893, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Grand Lodge, and to-day we show the building, although not completed, still we can readily see what it is designed to be when ready for occupancy.*

He closes with these words: In conclusion, brethren, permit us again to re-iterate one request already stated, it is now the work of the Grand Lodge, therefore, to see to it that we are enabled to complete our work speedily, so that it may redound to the great and good name of Florida, the Odd Fellows dwelling within her borders and to the great glory of the whole Order, and we assure you any work placed upon us will be cheerfully carried out.

Fraternally submitted,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

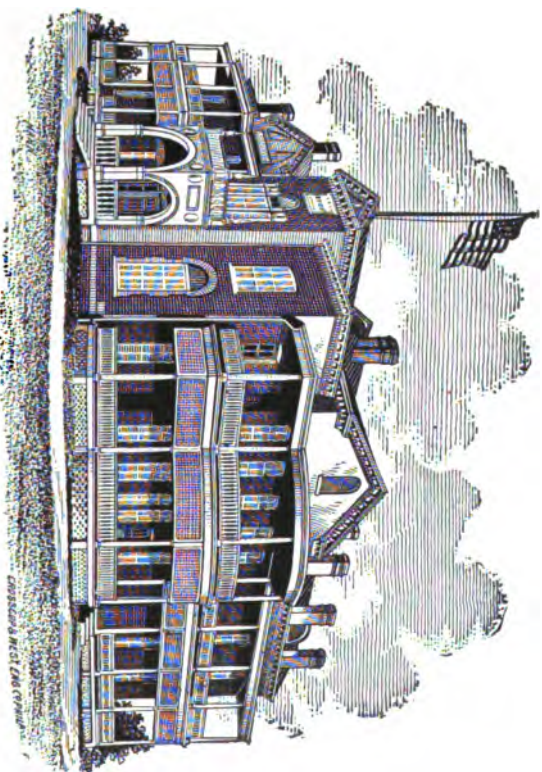
THE HOME DEDICATED.

GAINESVILLE, FLA., March 22, 1894.

The Florida and National Odd Fellows' Home and Sanitarium was dedicated to-day by the Grand Lodge of Florida with appropriate ceremonies. A procession about a quarter of a mile long, and composed of nearly all the civic, military and benevolent organizations of the city, formed on Liberty Street, with the right resting on Arredondo Street, at 2:30 o'clock, and accompanied the Grand Lodge to the Home. The command of march was given by Marshal of the Day, I. E. Webster, at 3 o'clock, and the various organizations forming the procession commenced the march in the following order:

East Florida Seminary Band.

*Report found in proceedings for '94.



ODD FELLOWS' HOME AND NATIONAL SANTARIUM.

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ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Gainesville Guards.

East Florida Seminary Cadets.

Young Ladies of East Florida Seminary.

Knights of Pythias.

Grand Army of the Republic and Confederate Veterans. These two Orders marched each in single file and side by side.

Gainesville Chapter No. 2, F. and A. M.

Gainesville Lodge No. 41, F. & A. M.

Church Choirs in Carriages.

Colfax Rebekah Lodge No. 2, I. O. O. F.

Center Lodge No. 11, I. O. O. F.

Grand Lodge of Florida, I. O. O. F.

Citizens.

Upon arriving at the Home, the Grand Lodge and Center Lodge No. 11, and the united Church Choirs were given a seat on the east porch, while the other organizations and the large crowd of citizens were seated on the benches which had been provided for them by the contractor.

Grand Master Dr. Cyrus, of Palatka, announced that the first feature of the program would be the awarding of the American flag to the Home, which had been presented by Mesdames Cushman and Webster. The presentation speech was made by Hon. Syd L. Carter, in his usual eloquent manner.

He was answered by Major A. J. Russell in behalf of the Trustees of the Home, in a few well chosen and fitting remarks, as follows:

GRAND MASTER AND BROTHER CARTER: I behold in the beautiful gift of the ladies who so kindly thought of us and the Home we are building, the flag of my country and my native land, under its colors and flowing folds I was born and reared. I see a flag respected by every people and nation on earth, those who love peace, love it, and those who in the spirit of war, love evil, fear and dread it. It is the symbol of liberty and freedom to the oppressed of all the world, the government which it is representative youngest among established recognized nationalities, has done more for the human race, and given more of practical and scientific progress, practical application and utility than all the rest of the world has done for itself from the beginning. This flag symbolizes a government which I believe is a great object lesson wrung out by the hand of God, the Creator, himself, illustrating the Divine idea of the best form of human government, whether on land or

upon the sea, it implies hope, courage and activity in the heart and life of the poor and oppressed everywhere. It speaks in glowing allegory of unity so uniquely illustrated in the bundle of rods on the nation's shield, and tells the tale that if one of the great States of which our nationality is composed should be assailed by any foe, then all the States compacted in strength will resist the assault.

One of the severest trials your speaker had during the late struggle between the States was to fire upon that flag, the flag under which he was born and reared, and such, doubtless, was the experience of thousands until cruel war had hardened the susceptibilities, and dimmed the vision. While I declare the Southern Cross was a beautiful banner and full of beautiful allegory, and was the emblem of unfailing honor and courage; it is true that it is forever furled, embalmed in memories of those who followed it, and the Stars and Stripes is the loved, honored flag of our common, united country, the greatest nation upon earth to-day.

Go, Brother Carter, to these ladies, our sisters, and bear with you our hearty thanks and richest compliments, and tell them that one of the Odd Fellows' strongest obligations is obedience to the law, loyalty to the government, and love of country, and that we pledge them that the flag presented by them shall never receive the least spot of dishonor while we live to defend it.

The dedicatory services then followed. The services were expressive, and left an impression on the minds of all who were present as to the great good the large army of Odd Fellows are doing throughout the world.

The altar of Odd Fellowship, which was built block by block during the ceremony, was an apt illustration of the fundamental principles of Odd Fellowship. The first block was a white one, and represented purity; second, pink, representing fellowship; third, blue, representing love; fourth, red, representing truth; fifth, green, representing faith; the sixth, yellow, representing hope, and the seventh, royal purple, representing charity.

In concluding the services, Grand Master Cyrus, in accordance with the customary manner, delivered the key to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Jacob Huff, who made a short address by way of acceptance.

Grand Master Cyrus then introduced Major A. J. Russell, who, after being urgently requested, finally consented to make the dedicatory address. Among other things he said:

GRAND MASTER, BRETHREN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I beg you to believe I am called upon to perform a work just now for which I am not prepared or physically able. The magnates of our Order, great men, were expected with us, and the Grand Sovereign Sire, himself, was to have done what I now must do in my feeble way.

Away back in the dim lighted past, upon the hills hard by beautiful Eden, were two brothers, who had gone out to offer sacrifice to the God of their worship, Jehovah. The one offered the fruits of the soil, the other the firstlings of the flock. He, who had the fruits of the soil, was influenced by sinister, unholy and purely selfish purposes, the other by a pure, simple, unselfish devotion and true worship. The one was rejected, the latter accepted. In the heart of him who offered the fruits there sprang into activity that most hateful emotion, jealousy, and in his rage, slew his brother.

Doubtless the earth and all around and about the dread scene was hushed into profound silence and fearful horror, and the murderer was fastened in his tracks as he gazed upon his dead, slain brother. Presently footsteps were heard as from Him whose footsteps are from mountain top to mountain top, whose chariot is the cloud and whose steed is the storm. Of him who had slain his brother, He asked, "Where is thy brother Abel?" and there came from the murderer the query in insolent and defiant reply, "Am I my brother's keeper?" This question of the murderer shall be my theme for a few brief words to-day.

We live in the midst of a blaze of civilization, a glorious Christian civilization that is answering the question in the affirmative. Second to our duty to Him who made us, is our duty to our fellowman, and it is true that he who loves his fellow, is the best citizen and is true and loyal to his country. The outcome of this civilization is the monumental charities

of the age. The thousands of churches that dot the valleys and crown the hills of the civilized world, and which are being rapidly, in hitherto utterly heathen lands, planted by the wayside, the blessed Book which is the basis revelation of the civilization, is being printed in every tongue and dialect and scattered like leaves in Valambrosa.

The printing press, in a large degree, is being consecrated to God and humanity, and we are by all these means and wondrous instrumentalities, not only keeping our brother in our sympathies and care, but elevating and uplifting him and (glorious thought) participating, as co-workers with our Almighty God and Father, in the complete redemption and salvation of our common race.

Humanity has risen to seize hold upon the opportunities and work which appears before it. Associations are formed in which human fraternity is the leading thought, and whose tenets are to fear God and love our fellow-man. Financial plans and systems are devised and executed by which the sick and needy are ministered to in the dreary time of want, the widow and the orphan are cared for and tenderly sympathized with, and the membership are restrained from evil and encouraged in the pursuit of good. Not until the great Eternal Books of Record shall be unsealed will it be known how much of human sorrow has been assuaged, how much of grief has been driven back to the dark place of abode whence it sprang into our world, how often the wail of the orphan has been hushed, and how many tears have been dried; then the query of our God to Cain, the murderer, shall be answered in the affirmative, and the Record will confirm the answer, and the plaudit come, well done.

A complete gratification should reign in the hearts of Odd Fellows to-day, when we contemplate our fraternal army of 800,000 members, with an annual income of \$8,000,000, as sinews of the war we wage against sin in all its forms and the hideous and dark results that follow it, and our organization is

one of the outputs of this nineteenth century civilization, abundantly blessed of God, as its amazing growth demonstrates. It is now a giant for good, in our country especially, and in many other parts of our fair world, and is loudly proclaiming the great truth that we are our brothers' keepers.

Here to-day we dedicate this substantial, commodious and beautiful structure to the same great purpose; here we will practically demonstrate the fact that we are indeed the keepers of brethren in more ways than those already alluded to; here we will receive those upon whom the fell hand of disease has fallen, those whose condition demands the balmy and restorative influence of this, of our lovely climate, God-given, and kept for His afflicted children; here silent, heart-given thanks will ascend to Him as the priceless boon of health shall be restored; when the rich blood shall again vigorously course its way through the veins and the lustre again brighten the eye, and life abounds and you and I, my brethren, shall have and forever hold the joy that we helped bring this joy about.

The doors of this beautiful Home shall be forever open to our Brethren of every State, and from the Canadas upon our north, and will be made to feel they are Brethren, and are at home. And I know you one and all will join me in this short prayer: "God Bless Our Home."

It is said by the members that Major Russell, President of the Board of Trustees, made the best and strongest speech of his life on that subject. Only a brief synopsis was reported.

March 18, 1895, Major Russell resigned from the Board of Trustees.

The following resolution was presented by Brother Syd L. Carter, which was adopted by a rising vote:

HALL OF GRAND LODGE, I. O. O. F. }
BARTOW, FLA., March 20, 1895. }

To the Grand Master and Members of the Grand Lodge of Florida, I. O. O. F.:

BRETHREN—WHEREAS, The resignation of Brother Albert J. Russell, President of the Board of Trustees, has been tendered this Grand Body, after a service of many years, remarkable for faithfulness and executive ability,

Therefore, be it Resolved, That while we reluctantly receive his resignation, we fully appreciate his great worth, and to him return our grati-

tude for his valuable labors, and many kindly offices rendered this Grand Body.

Be it further Resolved, That we recognize the Florida and National Home and Sanitarium is largely the work of his fertile brain, and we feel that so long as it shall stand it will be a lasting monument, testifying to his interest in the cause of humanity and the great underlying principle of Odd Fellowship.

Resolved further, That as a special mark of esteem to our worthy brother, a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and published in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

*Brother A. J. Russell, P. G. M., died in Jacksonville, Fla., last January. He was an honored member of Florida Lodge No. 1. His presence in our Grand Lodge will be sadly missed, and his place in our ranks will be hard to fill. He was a noble man, and one to whom everybody looked up to. He was one of the founders of our Home and Sanitarium, and he took great interest in working for its success. It was through his untiring zeal, assisted by others, that the Home was finally established.

MEMORIAL.

By the death of Albert J. Russell Odd Fellowship has lost an honored representative, the Grand Lodge a valuable member, the State a patriotic citizen, the community in which he dwelt a potent factor for good, and every worthy cause and noble undertaking—where the interest of humanity were to be advanced or the inroads of evil combatted—has lost an eloquent advocate, an energetic supporter, a stainless adherent.

A life replete with elevated endeavor and crowned with enviable success has reached its close. We can only tender our tribute to his worth, bear testimony to his merits and mourn his loss.

An Odd Fellow since reaching his majority, active in the work of his Lodge, assiduous in the work of this Grand Body, in which he held important offices for many years, he exercised a powerful and beneficial influence in the advancement of the Order in Florida, and his ability was not confined within the ordinary lines of Lodge duty. As the founder of the Odd Fellows' Home, which, after years of devoted labor, he had the pleasure of dedicating; as a valuable and efficient member of its Board of Trustees, as an untiring worker for its

*Report from Grand Master's address.

establishment and success, he displayed a breadth of mind, an elevation of purpose, a persistency of character worthy of the monument he by his labors erected—a monument which will perpetuate his memory while Odd Fellowship survives in the land and fraternal hearts beat in unison in response to the call of the distressed and afflicted.

That active brain is now at rest; that eloquent voice is silent; that compassionate heart is stilled; but in a broader sphere, untrammelled by the environment of mortality, we believe they are still doing the service of the Master he revered.

E. B. VANDEMAN, }
E. O. LOCKE, } Committee.
B. A. MEGINNISS, }

HALL UNION LODGE, No 2, I. O. O. F., }
WALDO, FLA., January 27, 1896. }

WHEREAS, The sad intelligence of the death of Past Grand Master, A. J. Russell, falls like a dark shadow upon our hearts, bringing to each one a sense of personal bereavement, and,

WHEREAS, We desire to place on record our love for so good and devoted a Brother, who has been by an all-wise Father called Home when in the full power of an active and useful life, therefore be it

Resolved, That by his great zeal and stirring eloquence in behalf of education and humanities highest good, he has endeared his memory to all who love morality, truth and justice.

Resolved, That as an Odd Fellow he was always ready to battle, with pen and by word, aiding our cause, defending right and defying wrong, boldly encouraging every effort in behalf of suffering humanity.

Resolved, That while we say "Thy will be done," we will ever cherish his memory with pride, and gratefully recall his fidelity to, and happy appreciation of the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

Resolved, That to his beloved wife and relatives we do extend our sympathy, assuring them that we miss his valuable counsel and guiding hand, and earnestly commend them to the love of our Heavenly Father, who knoweth best when to call Home His earnest laborers.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his wife and one recorded in our minute book.

N. C. PETTIT, }
T. M. CAUTHEN, } Committee
SAM'L. J. KENNAND, }

Brother Russell was born in Petersburg, Va., and passed a portion of his early life in the city of Charleston, S. C., from whence he came to Florida on account of the failing condition of his health, and here he remained during the greater part of his useful and eventful career.

Brother Russell united with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, soon after attaining his majority, and remained a constant, enthusiastic and energetic member, from the time of his initiation to his death.

Brother Russell joined Florida Lodge, No. 1, by card on the 18th day of June, 1870, and was from the date of his joining to the hour of his death, regarded as among its very foremost members, upon whose zeal and untiring energy the Lodge could always rely.

Brother Russell firmly believed the Order to be one of God's chosen instruments for the uplifting of mankind, and had an unswerving faith that though its efforts would in a great measure at least, result in "that period to which hope looks forward with ardent joy, when one law shall bind all nations, tongues and creeds, and that the law of Universal Brotherhood" of his loyalty and devotedness to the Order and hence to all mankind, we need not here speak, for it is engraved deeply on the hearts of all brothers who have ever listened to his voice raised in the support of the principles of our beloved Order.

His work has been done, and largely among us who can find no words adequate to the expression of its worth. Whatever errors of judgment were his owed their sole origin to his deep and intensely sympathetic nature, and never we believe to any motive unworthy of the noblest of men.

As a mark of the high esteem in which we held him, be it

Resolved, That the Charter and Brother Russell's picture be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that a page of our Journal be set apart to his memory, and be it further

Resolved, That we extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the widow of our deceased brother, and that we commend her for consolation to the Almighty Father, in whom our deceased brother ever had the most implicit trust; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and that a copy be furnished to our deceased brother's widow.

E. B. VANDEMAN,
C. D. RINEHART,
H. B. PHILLIPS.







ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
First Lieutenant Company A., C. S. A., 1865.

CHARTER XIV.

TRIBUTE.

JUDGE HENRY J. STEWART.

It was a few months after the commencement of the late war, probably in June, 1861, having been stationed at Fernandina in command of a company, for five or six weeks, I received an order from the Governor to take my company to Jacksonville, as he had selected mine to be one of ten companies to *rendezvous* at Jacksonville, for the purpose of forming and organizing a second Regiment of Infantry to be immediately sent to the front in Virginia for the Confederate service.

Among the companies was one from Jacksonville commanded by the late lamented J. J. Daniels. The First Lieutenant of that company was Albert J. Russell.

It was then and there I formed his acquaintance. I soon learned that he was a member of the Masonic fraternity. There were quite a number of Masons in the regiment, and as we were about entering the dangers of war, concluded to organize a "Regimental Lodge," which was speedily accomplished, Lieutenant Russell being one of the principal members. This naturally brought us closer together immediately, and often afterwards.

I soon discovered in him traits of character of the very highest and noblest order, which suited and pleased me. I regarded such traits as being so admirable as to induce me to seek his society. We accordingly became very intimate and fast friends; indeed, it was not long before the intimacy and friendship ripened into a brotherly feeling with us, and I very much doubt as to whether any other man in the regiment knew more than I did of Lieutenant Russell.

I admired him much for his many virtues. He was truthful and honest. I admired him because he was manly and brave. I admired him because of his commanding ability and superior talent. And last, but not least, I admired him because of his gentleness, his kind and sympathetic heart, his amiability and generosity. All of these traits of character he possessed, each in its fullest extent.

Lieutenant Russell had the confidence of all the officers and men of the regiment; they confided in him, because of a display of extraordinary ability and trust as a commanding officer, he was often consulted not only by other officers, but the Colonel of the regiment, himself, very often called him in consultation, especially upon the occasion of the brewing of great and imminent dangers.

Upon the retirement of Adjutant Thomas, Lieutenant Russell was made Adjutant, a very important, conspicuous and dangerous position, which he filled with great ability and success, and no officer performed more efficient service than did Major Russell.

After the war, we being members of the Masonic fraternity, were thereby again very often brought together. He was greatly beloved by the Brotherhood, and as a manifestation of their high regard and esteem he was elevated to the highest office in the Grand Lodge, and was by them retained in that position for several years.

In my estimation Major Russell was one of the most brilliant and eloquent orators in the South. I do not confine myself in this estimation to Florida, but include the entire South, and while a few may differ with me, yet I think and believe I voice the belief and sentiment of nine-tenths of all who ever listened to his grand oratory.

It was in 1874, 24th of June, St. John's day, the Lodge at this place had invited him to deliver the usual Masonic address, he accepted the invitation and arrived the evening before and became my guest during his stay. The next morning

talking about the celebration that was to take place and the address he was to deliver that day, assured me that he (then) knew no more as to what he was to say in the address he was to make that day, than I did, he had prepared no address, neither on paper nor in his mind, yet in one hour thereafter he arose before an audience of over six hundred persons and made one of the most masterly efforts of his life; for over two hours he so captivated his audience and so interested and delighted them with his brilliant and beautiful thoughts, expressed by such grand flights of eloquence that not even a whisper among all that crowd was made from beginning to the end of his address. The old appropriate saying, that "the audience was spell bound and a pin could have been heard if dropped," could never have been more appropriately and forcibly applied than on that occasion. This was not the only occasion, but many times, on Masonic and educational occasions as well as political speeches, and each time was a grand display of sublime oratory.

I have often spoken of Major Russell in connection with the office of Governor, also in connection with that of U. S. Senator. In either capacity he would have been a bright shining light, and such a light as the State would have been justly proud. I do not know, however, that he ever aspired to any office, but that of "State Superintendent of Schools," which he held for several years, discharging the duties with great ability and credit, and by his untiring efforts the system reached its present high standard. His whole time was devoted to the duties of the office, and not only his time but the greater part of his salary was used and spent in and for the cause of education.

Major Russell was the embodiment of all the elements of virtue necessary for the making up of a noble Christian gentleman. He was pure, pious, charitable and in him friendship, love and truth abounded; in him was one of the "noblest works of God," an honest man.

By his death the State has sustained an irreparable loss, so have the various societies, Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor, and other orders, of which he was an honored member.

COMMISSION—UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

To all who shall see these Presents; Greeting:

KNOW YE, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, honor, fidelity and abilities of Comrade A. J. Russell, I hereby in the name of the "Social, Literary, Historical and Benevolent" organization of United Confederate Veterans, and by the authority vested in me by the constitution of said organization, commission him Lieutenant Colonel an "aide de camp," Staff of Major General J. J. Dickison, Florida Division of "United Confederate Veterans," to rank as such from the sixteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of "aide de camp" by doing and performing all manner of things pertaining thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all officers, and also members of United Confederate Camps under his command to be obedient to his orders as "aide de camp."

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as he shall receive from me, the future General commanding, or other superior officers set over him, according to the rules and articles laid down in the Constitution and By-Laws governing the United Confederate Veterans. This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the General Commanding, or until his successor shall have been duly elected, appointed or commissioned.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the seal of the United Confederate Veteran Association to be affixed, at the City of New Orleans, La., this twenty-fifth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, and the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixteenth.

By the General and Commander in Chief

MAJ. GEN. GEORGE MOORMAN.

J. B. GORDON, General Commanding.

OCALA, Aug. 12, 1890.

Major Russell on the presentation of the Report of the Memorial Committee, made a most touching, inspiring and eloquent appeal for a Home for old Veterans. It was a masterly effort, and stirred every hearer's heart and memory to the uttermost depth. He was interrupted by frequent outbursts of applause.

A Soldiers' Home proposed.

FLORIDA SOLDIERS' HOME.

THE COMMITTEE MEET AT TALLAHASSEE TO DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARIES.

Dec. 10, 1890.

The Old Soldiers' Home Committee of Confederate Veterans' Association met here to-day to discuss ways and means for building a home for aged and decrepid Confederate soldiers.

The Committee effected a permanent organization by electing Major A. J. Russell President.

Mrs. J. J. Dickison tendered 100 copies of her book, "Dickison and his Men," one-third of the proceeds to go to the building fund, which patriotic offer was accepted.

THE OLD SECOND FLORIDA.

St. AUGUSTINE, Aug. 5, 1891.

Major A. J. Russell delivered an appropriate oration which was, of course, well received by every one present. Major Russell's efforts were unstudied and flowed from the heart as freely as did the blood of the Veterans in the cause they believed to be right. "Reconstruction" he said, "has been better and better since the war. It had never been rightly understood. It is now bound firmly together; the people of America—the soldiers of the North and South—always understood each other and when they got through fighting at Appomattox they went to work healing the wounds, which have since healed and which the politicians are ever trying to break out anew."

The ladies also came in for praise for their many kindnesses in beautifully decorating the hall in American flags and flowers. The Major also referred to God's goodness in exposing to the people of the South the iron and coal in Alabama, and the phosphate of Florida, the removing the people from the rule of king cotton or any other king.

The whole tenor of the remarks of the speaker and the conduct of the old soldiers removed from the occasion any semblance of the social strife of former times, as the Major said: "There are no Confederate or Union soldiers to-day. We are all Americans in one cause and under one flag."

"We in America will never fight again. The middle wall of partition has been broken down and ground to dust and can never be rebuilt. We know each other better and are drawn together, as no other blood but the American blood draws, and we are a *real union* of glorious States and a noble people."

THE OLD CONFEDERATES' HOME.

To our old Comrades and Dear Countrywomen and Friends this Appeal is Addressed:

More than a quarter of a century has elapsed since our soldiers returned from the field of battle and carnage, to homes and families, impoverished, and made desolate by terrible war; their heads are now wearing the frost of age; their bodies begin to bend with their weight, and naturally many are looking toward the grave.

We would not recount the sacrifices made, the suffering and hardships endured, the hope-destroying, disastrous ending of their struggle; these were all borne because of a sense of duty, and are now dreaded things of the past, to be embalmed in history in which the unprejudiced man of the future will wreath a crown befitting the patriotism, courage and self sacrifice of the Confederate soldier.

In reviewing this lapse of years of restored peace, we are rejoiced to record the wonderful recuperative powers of the people of the South, and the magnificent growth and development of our own beautiful and sunny, glad Florida, the one State which seems most continuously to reflect the benedictive smiles of a kind Creator-Father, and we rejoice still more that so many of our old comrades under the Divine blessing have thrived and prospered to a very great degree, so that old age is hedged about with home comforts and blessings and "parade rest" now awaits them in the future. For this we offer perpetual thanksgiving.

But this hopeful, beautiful picture is saddened when the

knowledge irresistably comes that there are so many of our comrades who are old and homeless and friendless, to whom at present the western horizon of life looks dark, dreary and without comfort. Upon them, somehow, do as they might, the sun of prosperity has refused to shine, and though as long as manhood's strength lasted they have cheerfully striven to meet the demands of their lot in labor and toil, the day has come to many more, when their limbs will be unable to toil on, and it is for these old, homeless and friendless soldiers of Florida we appeal.

We have resolved to build an Old Soldiers' Home, to be at some convient, healthful point, of simple, substantial character, to which we may welcome those forlorn ones, and make them feel that it is no cold charity, but the cheerful, loving gift of their comrades, their faithful patriotic countrywomen and friends, that they may have a home, indeed, in which dull care will be forbidden, and from which they may look toward a darkening west and listen for the beat of the last tattoo, and be at peace, loved, honored and commemorated.

We thus appeal to each committeeman who has been appointed for the several counties, and to our dear women of the State everywhere, to organize for the purpose of raising funds for this object. We want to build a Home to cost about \$12,000 on a lot of about ten acres good, fertile land. We have some of this amount now on hand and are earnestly desirous to complete and open the Home by October 31, 1891, before the winter breath shall begin to chill. This home is for the old soldiers of Florida who answered her call in a cause they believed with all their hearts was eminently right and just.

Our treasurer is Capt. Jno. Inglis of Madison; secretary, Col. W. D. Ballantine. We have incorporated. The incorporators are A. J. Russell, W. R. Moore, W. D. Ballantine, A. C. Martin, J. J. Dickison, J. L. Inglis, T. W. Givens, H. W. Long, R. B. S. Hargis.

All moneys raised should be forwarded to Capt. John L.

Inglis, treasurer, at Madison, Fla., who will acknowledge the receipt of same, and at the same time notify the secretary, Col. W. D. Ballantine, at Fernandina, Fla., of the amount so remitted. Just as soon as a sufficient amount is raised we will proceed to locate the Home, and begin to build at least, the foundation.

May we not expect a hearty, patriotic response to our appeal.

Respectfully, ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
President of the Home Incorporation.

Tallahassee, Fla., March 22, 1891.

Major Russell will deliver a soul-stirring address, and it is hoped that the assemblage will be a large one.—April 26, 1893.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS' DAY.

THE CONFEDERATE HOME.

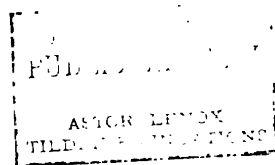
The dedicatory address was delivered by Major A. J. Russell. This speaker, well-known over the State, was fully enthused and at his best. His address was one thoroughly appropriate to the occasion and one that every listener will remember. During his address Major Russell read the following telegram from Hon. David Lang, Gov. Mitchell's private secretary, and Hon. J. B. Johnson, speaker of the house: "Major A. J. Russell, to the roll-call, we are absent on duty, but our hearts are with you to-day. God bless the Confederate Veterans! God bless the Home, and God speed the good work of our Confederate Veterans' Union." Major Russell also announced that O. M. Mitchell Post G. A. R. had selected a room in the Home which they would furnish. This announcement met with hearty applause.

The audience was held spell-bound, not a word was lost. At the conclusion the woods in the vicinity rang with applause.

The following letter, addressed to Gen. John B. Underwood on behalf of the Confederate Home in this city, is self-explanatory:



OLD SOLDIERS' HOME



JACKSONVILLE, FLA., May 25, 1895.

Gen. John B. Underwood, Chicago, Ill.:

DEAR SIR—The old soldiers, inmates of the Home for old Confederate Veterans of Jacksonville, Fla., have shipped by express two bags of Spanish moss with which to decorate in some point the beautiful monument which you have naively erected to the memory of their comrades in arms.

This wierd but beautiful forest adornment has been gathered by these brave old Confederate Veterans with their own trembling hands from the giant live oaks 'neath the shades of which they are wont to sit and recount their "hair-breadth" escapes, their victories and lament their defeats, and now they send it into a clime to which its growth and life is a complete stranger, to bedeck their last resting place and bivouac, with their blessings upon your head, grand tribute to the worth and memory of the Confederate soldiers and commend you in their prayers to the God of Battles and of Nations.

Very truly yours, ALBERT J. RUSSELL,
President Old Soldiers' Home.

CONFEDERATE HOME.

*The corporators of this newly established Home near Jacksonville have adopted the following:

I. The name of this Association shall be as in the charter, The Association of the Old, Homeless and Friendless Soldiers and Sailors of Florida.

II. The Home is open to old soldiers or sailors who volunteered or enlisted, or who served in Florida commands, or in Confederate navy from Florida, and such other Confederate soldiers and sailors who were actual citizens of this State at the time of its organization, August, 1888.

III. The object and business of this Association is to maintain and support and govern or regulate the Home.

IV. Applicants for admission must produce evidence of such service and that they were honorably discharged or paroled at the close of the war.

V. They must agree to submit cheerfully to the prescribed regulations of the Home in the matter of cleanliness, morality and conduct be-

*Rules and regulations governing the Home for the Old and Friendless Soldiers of Florida, and Sailors of the Confederate Navy who enlisted from Florida, or who were bona fide citizens of this State at the organization of the Home in Aug. 1888.

coming a true Confederate soldier or sailor.

VI. Cleanliness, manliness and purity of language and conduct are expressly demanded of the inmates of the Home; violation or neglect of these will be dealt with, and if persisted in, will of itself dismiss the veteran guilty, from the Home.

VII. Should there be any veteran who may apply for admission to the Home who has a wife grown old with him, and who will agree to take the care and work of the Home, both he and wife may be admitted at the discretion of the Executive Committee hereinafter provided for in these regulations. The ultimate purpose is to provide for such cases at the Home, as in the case of veterans who have no wives.

VIII. A Confederate veteran admitted to the Home will be made Commissary Sergeant on duty, whose duty it will be to issue rations, overlook the sick, keep a record of the violations of the regulations, and deliver the same to the Executive Committee.

IX. A. J. Russell, F. P. Fleming, William Baya, Walter R. Moore and D. E. Maxwell are hereby appointed an Executive Committee whose special duty shall be to supervise the Home, enforce the regulations and have the general care of the Home; to examine and admit or reject applicants for admission, and perform any duty under the regulations which may be necessary.

The following resolutions were adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be instructed to formulate a form of application, a copy of which shall be sent to all applicants to be filled out as required, to be returned to the Secretary of the committee, Gen. William Baya, at Jacksonville.”

It was resolved that F. P. Fleming be added to the committee of the incorporators, and that he be requested to frame a bill, or arrange in the best way possible regarding the Home gift of land by the State; to make it available, and to do so as speedily as possible.

THE FLORIDA CONFEDERATE HOME.

Since Aug. 1888, a few old Veterans whom God, in his infinite mercy, had blessed with continued health and strength, and some portion of this world's goods, discussed and resolved to establish a home for such of our old, worn and friendless Confederate soldiers and sailors, who had faithfully served the cause which they believed to be right with all their hearts, until honorably discharged or the strife ended. It is true the State had nobly provided such a pension as her financial condition and the ability of the people would warrant, but such were the conditions of the law, to protect the honest and de-

serving as well as the State from imposition, that many of the old comrades could not make the affidavit required or meet the demands of the law and be honest men. It is for those more especially the Home is designed.

Those interested in this laudable enterprise toiled on since the meeting in 1888, which, by the way, was the second reunion of the gallant and renowned Second Florida Infantry, until the spring of 1892, the incorporators met in the city of Jacksonville, and upon examination resolved to purchase the beautiful home place lying on the north bank of the beautiful St. John's River, hitherto known as the Whitney place.

This home consists of ten acres of good land, an Italian Villa, a house of nine large and airy rooms, an additional house of two rooms, and many fruit trees, among which are the orange, which now hangs as the golden apples of Hesperides. It commands one of the prettiest views upon the entire river; every steamer, vessel or craft of any kind going to or returning from Jacksonville passes in full view of the piazza of the house enlivening the same and awakening thought and reverie in the minds and memories of these brave and gallant men.

Sufficient money has been raised to make the first payments required in the purchase, and there are now only five hundred dollars more to be raised and paid when a generous and gallant comrade, who has been successful in business enterprise, will step forward and relieve the property of all debts by the payment of twenty-five hundred dollars, and give to the home of these heroic old men a title clear of all debt and obligation.

To the women—the noble, patriotic women of the State—much is due, and to whom all true soldierly men will with head and heart uncovered bow in knightly recognition of their virtues and sweet charity; specially to the ladies of Leon, Marion, Columbia, Duval, St. Johns and Lee Counties are these compliments due.

The furnishing of the Home is not yet complete. The

struggle to meet the payments and make repairs and render everything comfortable has required every dollar we have been able to raise, but soon, very soon, this will be accomplished and these dear old, helpless comrades will have a home; it shall be theirs, they shall not be dependent upon cold worldly charity, but shall feel that their comrades and country women prepared this place of rest and security as a free precious gift to their true soldiers. The weight of years is upon them; their eyes are turned to the Western Horizon; they listen for the beat of the last tattoo, when they shall honorably ground arms and surrender, where there is no disgrace, and it is the firm resolve of the Association that their last days shall be full of comfort and ease.

The Legislature of 1893 enacted a law through which the Home will receive one hundred dollars for each inmate until the number shall reach fifteen, when the annual sum shall be fifteen hundred dollars; which will greatly aid in carrying on the Home. No better act of the Legislature was ever enacted, and the writer believes that God will honor it.

There are now five inmates living at the Home—an old man and his old wife (no divorcement is to be known in this home), and three other comrades, one of whom has now no relative living upon the earth of whom he has any knowledge. The old man and his wife were the first to arrive, and with much apparent form the old man was appointed Sergeant and put in charge of the commissary. The appointing power looked upon the old wife, as she seemed pleased with the honor the old man had received and really wished for some way to honor the dear old lady, and it was suggested to his mind to make her at once First Corporal.

For a moment it was a happy thought, but soon came the reflection the old lady has never been drilled, and has not learned the necessity of absolute submission and obedience to the military; and she might clash with the Sergeant, and the idea was abandoned and she voluntarily became a kind old

mother to the Home and all its occupants.

Kind publishers, permit me to close this article in an appeal for further and immediate aid, so that we can perfect our place of comfort for these homeless, friendless, yet gallant old men.

We regret to write as we have had to do, the names of so few counties as coming forward in aid of this necessary and praiseworthy enterprise.

Surely every county should place its name on the roll of benefactors; and especially does the writer desire, when next he writes, he may boast of the patriotic women of every county in the State, without one single exception, and rejoice that Florida recognizes her duty to her sons, who went forth to battle in defence of her honor, her women and children; who leaving home laid their limbs and lives and with their honor and their means upon her altar, a free-will patriotic offering.
—A. J. Russell in *Florida Life*.

COL. GEORGE T. WARD, OF THE 2D FLORIDA INFANTRY, C. S. A.

There are some who sleep in the tombs of the patriot from among Florida's patriotic citizens who are not openly remembered as their lives and deaths deserve.

Prominent among these is Col. George T. Ward, first Colonel of the 2d Florida Infantry, Confederate States' Army. This generous, brave, honorable man was in his political life an Old Line Whig, in the question of secession he was a strong Unionist and battled with great persistency for the Union as against secession; his adopted State, Florida, having resolved in convention to secede with her Southern sister States, he accepted her position and was among the first to draw his sword in defense of her honor and integrity, and was elected over all competitors Colonel of the 2d Florida, and marched with his regiment to Virginia.

His very courage was but the index to his nobility and

generosity of life and character, he was one of nature's noble-men. He fell at the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, and was brought from the battlefield and carefully laid in an old deserted house with a card on his breast telling who he was and requesting his burial.

He was buried under the direction of General Fitz John Porter, Union General, in the sacred precincts of the venerable church of that city.

On the approach of his regiment to take its place in brigade, it was halted to await the arrival of a Virginia regiment. The writer of this feeble tribute approached his side and as he recognized me, he quoted, from Scott's "Lady of the Lake," the meeting of Fitz James and Roderick Dhu, and turning said, "My presentiment is more forcefully upon me now" (he had frequently said that he would be killed early in the great struggle); after marching to the line of battle, the band playing "The Campbells are Coming" and getting his regiment in position, in less than an hour he fell, the fatal shot piercing his noble heart.

That some slight glimpse of this noble man may be had by Floridians and others the following incident will serve to throw a rich halo of light:

The burial of the Federal dead at the first battle of Old Bethel had been but slightly performed, and the burial was but shallow, that part of the State of Virginia being abandoned, many swine were wandering in the fields and woods and it was supposed that the dead had been disturbed by them. In several cases they had been torn from their resting places and some thoughtless men, it was reported, had obtained a bone which they seemed to think a trophy. When this reached the ear of Colonel Ward he ordered the regiment paraded. When this was completed, he commanded those who had possession of the bones to step one face to the front, and such was the character of the command, that it was immediately as if involuntarily obeyed, and a detail was ordered to march these men

to the place of burial and re-inter the remains, and to re-bury all disturbed, and care for the entire resting place of the dead. This done and inspected, Colonel Ward called for a plank from a neighboring deserted house, and having it set up firmly in the midst of the dead wrote: "Here lies the dead of our brave foe; let no vandal hand disturb their rest."

He was a man firm in discipline and the administration of military law, yet merciful to a degree, that almost invited a test of its quality that it might be seen and experienced.

He fell in the prime and vigor of his elegant manhood, a loss to his State and country; he sleeps the long sleep, by the side of one of the most ancient church edifices of the South, awaiting the last universal reveille, when the dead of both sides shall march for inspection and assignment, and we may trust in view of his admirable character to a final justification.

When he drew his sword for the great contest, his home among the hills of Leon County was a princely domain, upon which human life reached its earthly climax in social refinement, generous hospitality, and courtly manners, and all its dwellers, even the leaves, were the happier because of the presence and influence of its manly owner. Honored be our heroic dead.

Jacksonville, December, 1893.

MOURN FOR MAJOR RUSSELL.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS OF TALLAHASSEE ADOPT RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., January 23, 1896.

The announcement of the death of Major Albert J. Russell in this city caused a general expression of sadness and regret. He was well and favorably known here and universally admired for his many gifts.

"The maxim that 'life is uncertain' and 'death no respecter of persons' is daily illustrated. The crowned head and the peasant 'to this complexion must all at last come,' and day by day we have object lessons before us that we are of 'the earth earthy.' As a maxim, it is a self evident fact, and though we try to place the inevitable a long way off in our individual cases, the fact still remains.

"Whereas, It has pleased the Great Captain to order from earthly

duties to a post in the great beyond our comrade Major Albert J. Russell;

“Whereas, Lamar Camp is deeply indebted to our late comrade for valuable services in organizing and contributing largely to its interests, by personal effort and in every manner, while with us.

“Resolved, first, This camp has heard with profound regret of the death of our late esteemed comrade, Major A. J. Russell, always so conspicuous in matters affecting the advancement of the Confederate Veterans.

“Resolved, second, That, while we deplore the loss of our comrade, it fell with greater force upon his adopted State, to whose service he gave for so many years the advantages of his talents and experience.

“Resolved, third, to his widow we tender the deep sympathy begotten of a true comradeship, sharing with her the sorrows that overwhelm her, and trust that the All Wise will soothe the afflictions when human sympathy fails.

“Resolved, fourth, That a page in the records of Lamar Camp be properly inscribed to his memory, and a copy of these resolutions spread thereon.

C. A. BRYAN,	} Committee.
THOS. CARTER,	
G. N. SAUSSY,	
T. H. RAND,	

FLORIDA DIVISION UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

R. E. LEE CAMP NO. 58.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 24, 1896.

MRS. ALBERT J. RUSSELL,

Jacksonville, Florida.

DEAR MADAM: Enclosed please find the action of this camp with reference to your and our sad loss in the death of our late comrade, Major A. J. Russell.

And I beg to add personally my assurance of sympathy in the bereavement which has so recently come upon you.

Very Respectfully,

J. A. ENSLOW, JR.

Adjutant, R. E. Lee Camp, No. 58, U. C. V.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MAJOR ALBERT J. RUSSELL

Resolutions introduced at a meeting of R. E. Lee Camp, No. 58, United Confederate Veterans, at its regular meeting February 11, 1896, and adopted unanimously.

Albert J. Russell, a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp, No. 58, and aide-de-camp to General J. J. Dickison, commander of the Florida

division of the United Confederate Veterans, on January 17, 1896, answered the roll call of the Great Commander of the Universe.

"Comrade Russell was a man of marked character and ability. When sectional controversies culminated in war between the North and South he was the first to enlist under the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy, and to proceed with his regiment, the famous Second Florida Infantry, to the bloody fields of Virginia, where as an officer of that regiment he performed valiant service in defense of his country. His mechanical attainments were afterward utilized by the Confederate Government in its machine works at Columbus, Ga. When the star of the Confederacy was nearly obscured, he performed arduous and faithful service in command of a battalion with troops gathered to obstruct Sherman's march to the sea.

"Ever zealous in doing good, he labored for his State in peace with the same energy and fidelity which had characterized his service in war. Endowed with the gift of oratory rarely equalled, he was ever ready to respond to the frequent calls which were made upon him as a public speaker in advocacy of the cause of right. While loyal to the Government under which he lived and died, he never failed, when occasion offered, in tones of eloquence and truth, to do full justice to the patriotism and valor of those who fought beneath the folds of the Starry Cross.

Resolved, By R. E. Lee Camp, No. 58, United Confederate Veterans, that in the death of Major Albert J. Russell, while we bow in submission to the will of Him who rules in peace or in war, we mourn the death of a true comrade, a faithful friend, and an ever zealous member of this camp, whose services were always ready and cheerfully given, whether to aid a comrade in need or to promote the welfare of this organization, of which he was an honored member.

"*Resolved*, That this memorial be spread upon our records as a slight tribute to our departed friend.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the same be given to the city press for publication, and an engrossed copy be sent to the widow of Major Russell, with the assurance of our heartfelt sympathies in her great bereavement, and the prayer that our Heavenly Father may comfort her in her sorrow."

(Signed)

F. P. FLEMING, Ch'n.,	}	Committee.
J. P. GAYLE,		
CHAS. J. COLCOCK,		

LAKE CITY, FLA., Jan. 18, 1896.

To Mrs. Albert J. Russell, Jacksonville, Fla.:

Camp No. 150, U. C. V., by resolution in assemblage in honor of Lee, express to you their appreciation of the life of Hon. Albert J. Russell and their sympathy and condolence in your affliction.

S. J. POTSDAMER,	}	Committee.
J. F. BAYA,		
W. M. IVEB,		

CHAPTER XV.

TRIBUTE.

EX-GOVERNOR F. P. FLEMING.

I first met Albert J. Russell in 1861. He was the 2nd Lieutenant of Daniel's Company (G) of the 2nd Florida Infantry, and I was a private in Starke's Company (H) of the same Regiment. While I had seen him as an officer of the Regiment from the time of its organization at Jacksonville in the early part of July, being in a different company, the first time that I recollect speaking with him was during the Fall of that year when our Regiment was encamped near Yorktown, Va. I was one of the guard detail and he was an officer of the guard. A teamster had crossed the guard line near my post without leave which I had reported to him.

He served with his Regiment that winter on the Peninsular with a small force under Gen. J. Bankhead Magruder. Early in 1862, the Federal Army, under McClellan, commenced its advance upon Richmond by the Peninsular Route and was confronted by the little army of Magruder with a line of breastworks across the Peninsular from Yorktown to the James River. Lieutenant Russell's mechanical skill was here brought into requisition in the construction of carriages for mounting some heavy guns on Fort Magruder one of the Confederate Redoubts near Yorktown. He was with the 2nd Florida in its "baptism of fire" in the skirmish of Peach Orchard, where with the 2nd Mississippi Battalion it dislodged a line of the enemy's sharpshooters which had approached uncomfortably near the Confederate lines.

Magruder's Army was reinforced by Johnston's and the

latter officer assumed command. Soon after the retreat from Yorktown commenced. On the retreat, May 5, 1862, the battle of Williamsburg was fought. Lieutenant Russell participated in this engagement with his Regiment which sustained considerable loss, numbering among its killed its gallant and lamented Col. Geo. T. Ward.

When the Regiment reached Chicahominy near Richmond, it was re-organized under an Act of the Confederate Congress by an election of officers. Lieutenant Russell and many others of the original officers were left out then; whereupon he returned to Florida and served as an officer in the Camp of Instruction in that State on Conscript Duty.

At a later period he was placed on duty in the Government Machine Works in Columbus, Georgia, and continued in such service until Sherman commenced his march from Atlanta toward Savannah. Russell, with the rank of Major, was then placed in command of a force organized at Culumbus which were a portion of the troops utilized in the attempt to obstruct the Federal advance. I am not able to give any details of this service. It has its place in the history of the death struggle of the Confederacy.

After the close of the war, Major Russell returned to Jacksonville and engaged in building and various branches of skilled carpenter's work. He was a man of power in the cause of temperance and more than one life was rescued from the wreck of dissipation through his efforts. He always contended that this was only possible by trust in God and dependence on His sustaining aid. And this he illustrated in his own life as an earnest member of the Methodist Church.

Major Russell possessed in a remarkable degree the gift of oratory. As an extempore speaker he had not his superior and I do not think his equal in this State. On any occasion and on almost any subject, with or without mature preparation, he was never at a loss for choice and forcible language in which to express his thoughts, and his speeches sparkled

with gems of eloquence. In consequence of such gifts he was frequently in demand not only as a political speaker, but in the cause of temperance, of education and in the Masonic, Odd Fellows and other fraternities of which he was a prominent member.

Ever since the termination of the war, he was a faithful and earnest worker in the Democratic party, promulgating its principles in tones of eloquence, whether in the days of its defeat or in those of its triumphs, performing his full share in every campaign since the close of the war.

In 1877, Major Russell was appointed Superintendent of Education for Duval County, which may be said to mark the commencement of his labors in the cause of education, continuing with his appointment by Governor Bloxham in 1884 as State Superintendent of Education and holding the same position in the Cabinet of Governor Perry and myself, a period in all of about nine years.

A marked characteristic of Major Russell was his enthusiasm, this he interjected into whatever he was connected with. In nothing was this more fully exemplified than in his educational work which called forth all the zeal of his enthusiastic nature. Without detracting from others, I think I may safely say that to him more than any other individual is due the great and wonderful advance of the free school system of this State. He was alike the friend of teacher and pupil and never failed to encourage faithful and zealous work in both.

This very brief sketch would indeed be incomplete did it fail to mention the Home for aged and infirm Confederate soldiers in this State. The old soldiers who are sheltered and cared for in this haven of rest, overlooking the beautiful St. John's, as life's battle draws towards its close, may well cherish the memory of their benefactor, Major Russell, by whose exertions mainly it was established and who was the moving spirit in its care and maintenance up to the time of his death.

When he gave up his life, his adopted State lost a valued

citizen ; the causes of religion, temperance and education, an earnest advocate and the writer a faithful friend.

THE REUNION.

From the Breeze, July 10, 1880.

Much disappointment was manifested this morning at the announcement that the train would be several hours late, but at 10:30 o'clock, the hour at which the train was expected, large numbers of persons had collected about the Grand National Hotel, to welcome the survivors of Perry's brigade on their arrival.

When the train arrived a number of the old veterans were found aboard, some of them with but one arm, others with but one leg, and all, perhaps, bearing the scars of wounds received during the great struggle. They were all cordially welcomed at the depot by the committees and escorted to the Grand National Hotel where they were supplied with badges.

A procession was formed, consisting of members of the First, Fifth and Eighth Florida regiments, followed by ex-Confederate and ex-Union soldiers who felt disposed to participate. These were preceded by the Eureka band and a detachment of the First Florida Artillery, who marched to the Metropolitan Hall.

The stage had been tastefully decorated with Union and Confederate flags, with a portrait of the old idolized chieftain, General Robert E. Lee, and beautiful flowers, by our ladies, a large number of whom were present.

The meeting was called to order by Colonel Moore, who requested the field and staff officers present to take seats on the stand, which request was complied with. The mayor was also invited to a seat on the platform, but he was not present.

Rev. A. Peeler, of St. Matthew's M. E. Church, then offered prayer, after which the meeting was declared open for business.

Major A. J. Russell was then introduced, who, in the following brief address, welcomed the survivors of the brigade.

Colonel Moore, and Comrades One and All : I am bidden by my comrades and brothers of Jacksonville to welcome you to our city home, and to offer you their greetings and kindest hospitality.

We welcome you not to regrets, save as we remember the loss of our brave dead and recount their heroic deeds ; but we welcome you to-day to a consideration of the glorious prosperous circumstances by which we are surrounded. I would not

dare to give expressions to emotions that rush athwart my mind and pass in solemn march cross my heart. My tongue would fail of speech and my thought of conception. For all the rich blessings we now enjoy let us one and all ascribe praise and thanksgiving to Him who rules amid the nations of the earth.

Our bonny south, so recently prostrate in humiliation and dust as a result of war, presents to-day one of the grandest exhibitions of recuperative power a spectating world has ever beheld, and is a glorious proof of the complete acceptance of results and of our good faith. Then welcome, thrice welcome comrades, to this our second reunion and may much joy and pleasure attend you.

MEMORIAL DAY.

APRIL 26, 1889.

“But undisturbed—in sleep profound—unheeding there he lay,
His coffin but the Mountain soil, his shroud Confederate gray.”

The services attendant upon Memorial Day, and the loving and sacred duties called forth at such times in honor of our glorious dead, were never more generously or appropriately performed in Tallahassee than upon Tuesday last. The decorations of the graves during the forenoon was a pleasurable duty to our ladies, and the mounds were covered with loving emblems from tender hands.

A large concourse of people assembled in the grounds of the Capitol in the evening to attend the regular memorial services which were held from the west portico of the Capitol. The services were opened with the playing of a beautiful dirge by the Leon Cornet Band, followed by an appropriate hymn sung by the Episcopal choir. Rev. M. Partridge, the Methodist pastor, invoked Divine blessing in a short and eloquent prayer. After which the orator of the day, Major Albert J. Russell, stepped forward and held his audience spell-bound by the beauty, force and eloquence of his tribute to those who had gone over to the majority, and his beautiful apostrophe to the the grand heritage which their sacrifice had secured to us.

The speaker is well known as one of the most eloquent in the South, and nobly did he vindicate his reputation. His address was patriotic—tender—and at times magnificently eloquent.

We give below a synopsis of his address, but cold type cannot bring to our readers the impassioned presence or the magnetic voice of the speaker.

Ladies of the Memorial Association and My Fellow Countrymen—Whenever I approach the sacred memory of our beloved, honored and brave dead, I deeply feel that a profound silence would be the grandest eloquence, but this is Memorial Day, and in its contemplation a grand panorama of heroic deeds, heroic suffering, heroic endurance, and wondrous achievements are paraded before our minds and memories—brave men fighting, suffering and enduring for the sake of that which they esteemed and believed eternal principle.

For twenty-five years our country had been in sectional strife in the halls of Congress, the spirit of compromise had sought to allay the strife, irrepressible in its temper and purpose, many of the lives of our most distinguished and grandest men had been frittered away in the futile effort; when at last the South determined to submit the question of the constitutional rights of the individual States to the dread arbitrament of the sword, and manfully meet the issue.

Well we knew this arbitrament would be final and the result, if favorable or unfavorable had been accounted for. I know if I declare as a Southern man, that I love to contemplate my dear South in the person of her gifted sons, battling in argument and persuasion for what she in her heart of hearts believed to be right, I shall give no offence to my brave Northern brother who may hear me to-day, nay—he will rejoice in this type of true American manhood.

I love to contemplate her when the issue came and she unhesitatingly gathered all she had of honor or wealth and brave sons and freely laid them on the altar of *principle*. I love to contemplate her, though in sadness, when conquered and driven back by overpowering numbers, she came from the field of battle, her head bowed upon her bosom, her arms folded, her robes bedraggled in the blood of her sons, whose memories we cherish here to-day, and defiled with the dust of dread war, but quickly lifting her eyes to Heaven in a sublime trust in the God of Nations, she gathered the fragments remain-

ing and starts upon a new and yet grander career. And now most of all I love to contemplate her in her wonderful exhibit of recuperative power and enterprise.

There are some who write and speak of her cause as the "lost cause." I claim here to-day the cause was not lost in view of the grand results which under God's providence have flowed out of it. During the years of Congressional strife to which I have alluded a partition wall of sentiment and strife had arisen between the sections of Himalayan height; jealousies and suspicions had grown apace. A man from the North was looked upon with suspicion in the South, and a man from the South as a fire-eater and disorganizer in the North, and the name of the Union between the States was a farce in the eyes of the nations.

Old monarchy and despotism looked upon our young republic as an experiment and predicted that it would soon tumble to pieces, and doubtless in their greed had partitioned our fair land. But the God of the Nations was in the midst of this darkness, war and strife; at the helm of our Ship of State, and the cruel war was over; the middle wall of partition was broken down the very debris was blown away forever by the fierce winds of our despondency.

As a people we become better and better acquainted; the people from the North and the South, East and West, are flowing together and we are one, as God designated we should be from the beginning—a Nation, exemplifying the divine idea of the best form of human government, and to-day the lesson is being slowly but surely felt by the crowned heads everywhere: monarchies and despotisms are trembling and shaking to their very foundation, and human liberty is on the onward and upward march.

In the midst of all this glory and prosperity, there are still a few, but very few, who flaunt the symbol of sectional strife and hate, while God in his mysterious Providence, seized the great earthquake and digs a grave in the very bosom of

yonder grand old city—the “Queen City of the South”—Charleston, big and deep enough to bury forever all strife and hate, and while her devoted citizens stand aghast and trembling and homeless, there pours out from all over the land, from old Boston on the East; from the grand States which lie along the great lakes, from far-off Northeast—from everywhere over our broad land a stream of national fraternity and sympathy such as had never been exceeded in the world’s history, and upon which we know the God of Nations delights to look, and on which if permitted, the angels smile in loving accord.

Out of this thought we can come lovingly and with lofty pride to call up the endearing memories we bear those of our beloved and honored dead who offered up their precious lives for all this and in our cause.

Oh, how they suffered and bore! Such heroic conduct had never been achieved!

In childhood, when we have read of the blood-tracked march of Washington and his troops from Valley Forge over the snow and across the ice-bound Delaware, how our hearts have swelled as we declared them almost gods; but, my countrymen, their sufferings do not compare with those endured by the brave men whose memories yonder simple shaft perpetuates, and for the refreshing of which we are assembled here to-day. Their bare feet left tracks of as noble blood as ever flowed from man on the pebbly roads over the hills and through the valleys of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, as they marched bravely to almost certain defeat, hungered and almost naked, they had, and it was almost all they had, a heart almost worthy of God; brave, strong, loving and true, their eyes and faith fixed on principle, they marched on, fought on, and suffered on, till the last tattoo was sounded, and now he who rests in the bosom of Mother Earth, often by the side of that other brave and true soldier who wore the blue, and oh, how peaceful their rest is now!

My fair country women, I thank God it is committed to

your loving hearts and tender hands to lovingly perpetuate their memory and keep their resting places fresh and sweet as you lay the beautiful and fragrant flowers upon their graves, and I rejoice to know you never fail all over the South where he who wore the gray lies by the side of him who wore the blue, or he who wore the blue lies by the side of him who wore the gray, to sweetly remember them both and equally adorn and beautify the resting place of each, where they await the sound of the tattoo for Time and the Reveille of the rising-morn of Eternity, when he who wore the blue and he who wore the gray shall rise side by side, both looking to and recognizing the same Commander, joined in peace and in eternal rest. If the spirits of those we honor to-day could have been permitted to hover over the resting place of their bodies and witness the honor done them they would have divided the adoration of their God with that of the fair hands, which scattered bright blossoms in their grateful remembrance. May God bless you, my country women, and our whole glorious country, is the prayer of your humble speaker to-day.

Benediction pronounced by Rev. Dr. Carter, Episcopalian Rector.

MEMORIAL DAY.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE ADDRESS BY MAJOR RUSSELL.

APRIL 26, 1895.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Comrades:

I am called upon on this occasion to bring to thought circumstances growing out of one of the most stupendous conflicts the nations of the earth ever witnessed, or perhaps will again—the great struggle between the American States. In the books we learned that when “Greek met Greek” then came the “tug of war,” but this pales into insignificance when compared with the struggle between the States, when American met American on the field of battle. This is Memorial Day, and we have assembled here to bring to memory our honored

and beloved dead, who fell heroic sacrifices in that great struggle.

We are gathered to-day to pay our tribute of respect to those who gave their lives to a cause which they, and which we, regard as holy.

They went forth to battle for a cause that they knew to be a just one. In the history the time had come when the South must take up arms. If it had not done so our cheeks would be mantled with shame to-day, and we would not be decorating the graves of those who fell.

Some are so sensitive in these days that they say we should not come out to decorate the graves of those who fell in a struggle from which we suffered so much. It is a fitting occasion this Memorial Day, to gather in the midst of our brave dead and speak of their sufferings, hardships and grand achievements, while our honored country women bedeck their last resting places with beautiful flowers, fresh from the Heavenly Artist's hand and shedding a fragrance like celestial perfume.

The people that neglect its honored dead is a people that will neglect the living and the grand opportunities of the present.

We believe in one central God ; we believe in the model of the Man of Nazareth ; we believe in the great Future where we shall be reunited to those whose graves we strew with flowers to-day. It is not necessary to call up and review the causes which led to this great struggle. It began in the early days of our country; diverse interests—doubtless selfishness—entered largely into the cause and at last when black-imaged fanaticism spread its dark pall over our section, the South in her manhood, threw down the gauntlet and fratricidal war ensued and never was seen a grander display of manhood. The South felt her cause was just and right and her struggle was based upon this and her ardent hope of success. It is your speaker's honest opinion that at no time did the South seek or

desire to damage the government of the United States or its people.

Her strife was for the free exercise of her choice as to remaining in a Union which had, by its interference, become obnoxious.

With these convictions, she could do no less and maintain her sense of true manhood. No wonder then that she gathered her all, her sons, her wealth, her hope, and freely, cheerfully cast them upon the altar of home and country.

But the arbitrament of war was against her. For a long, wearisome year had all hope of success vanished and in the face of this dread conviction, did our noble, daring, chivalrous soldiers, ahungered, unshod, half-clad, stand like sturdy heroes to the front and maintain their positions until the gallant, beloved, almost worshipped Lee, said, "It is enough; we surrender."

We come here to commemorate not the sufferings and the struggle which came to the South, but the memory of the heroic dead, who lie beneath our feet.

Could I believe that the young men of my country, and especially of my beloved South, could ever forget the memory of their ancestors, who laid the foundations of their homes and hearth-stones, I should fold my arms and sadly reflect that manly virtue had gone from my country. Were I to think that when I lie among the unnumbered dead, no one will recall my name, and linger fondly on my memory, I would not care how soon my name were blotted from the great Book of Life.

This is a grateful scene, lovely, true woman, with her tender hands scattering sweet flowers over the resting place of our heroes, and letting fall the pitying tear. It almost seems t'were sweet to die in such a cause and be thus honored by loving women—women true as God's sunshine.

Sometimes I think, my country women, that the very angels as ministering spirits, beholding you engaged as you are

this day, envy you, your sweet employ and would gladly participate. You are the mothers of our sunny land. Teach this same reverence of the memories of our heroes to your sons and daughters, that they forget not the noble deeds of their fathers and their comrades, Southern soldiers.

I cannot more appropriately close my remarks than to read you a few verses which were written shortly after the close of the war by Mrs. Elizabeth O. Donnelly, who lived near my home in South Carolina, and to whom the memory of the dead was very dear. They are these :

THE CONFEDERATE DEAD.

A simple board of rough, ill-shapened pine,
O'errun, perchance, by some tenacious vine,
Placed by some friendly hand above each head,
Is all that marks our brave Confederate dead.

No epitaph, save now and then, : 'Unknown,'
Carved rudely on some unpretending stone;
No towering shaft, with flattering words inlaid,
Casts o'er our slain its proud, imperial shade.

But can the skillful hand of polished art
To worth unsullied one more charm impart,
Bequeath to hallowed dust a sweeter rest,
Or make their names more honored or more blest?

Though monumental stone should never rise
To tell the world where fallen valor lies,
Each heart erects its own immortal shrine,
And there inscribes him attributes divine.

We need no piles of sculptured marble gray,
To tell us where the Southern soldier lay,
For roses cluster o'er his grassy bed,
And round the spot their sweetest fragrance shed.

Imbedded there by women's virtuous hand,
Sweet emblems of our own bright sunny land,
Could flowers fair for better purpose bloom
Than to adorn the Southern soldiers' tomb?

Brave heroes of the "lost," but sacred, cause,
Though withheld their well-deserved applause,
Impartial history must in time grow bold—
Their virtues and their deeds will yet be told.

Poets will linger on the blood-dyed plains,
And chant above our lost their sweetest strains;
Confederate dead will yet survive in song,
Nor shall their glorious deeds be hidden long.

Fair daughters of our balmy clime will bring
Their floral offerings with each coming spring
Entwine a wreath around each humble grave—
A loving tribute to our sleeping brave.

Though in the struggle triumph crowned the "strong,"
'Tis not to strength that honor should belong;
He most deserves it who most nobly gave
His life, his "all," his country's rights to save—

Who fought not through a selfish love of gain,
Spurned rank, or "bounty," and shrank not from pain;
'Twas but to save wife, children, home, and pride,
The Southern soldier battled, bled, and died.

Their cause was noble, and their deeds sublime,
Their just reward is held in trust by Time;
She must, and will, at last bestow the prize,
For worth immortal never, never dies.

In writing of "Memorial Day," "I gave God the glory for all our Country had done and suffered, and for the manner in which He lead us to rapid greatness."

APRIL 26, 1896.

"At each recurring anniversary we are called to mourn the loss of departed comrades. There is no response when the roll-call reaches the name of Russell, whose pathos and eloquence were ever ready to deck in chaste and beautiful language every occasion where an appeal was required or an orator needed. At our last anniversary he alternately brought tears to our eyes and swelled our hearts with pride, as he mourned the loss of dead comrades and brothers, and recounted the valorous deeds of the heroes who have preceded us on that long journey which knows no ending. May he rest in peace.—From Captain Davidson's address.

MAY 31, 1893.

HONORS TO THE DEAD.

At the conclusion of Rev. S. F. Gale's address, Maj. A. J. Russell, of the Confederate Veterans, was invited by the commander to make an address.

This was no hard task for Major Russell, as he was ever ready. The occasion was one that excited his grand style of

oratory, and a moment later he commenced one of the best, short addresses that he had ever been heard to make. It was full of patriotism and kindness. He thanked the Grand Army in the name of the Confederate Veterans present, for the honor conferred on them on the present occasion. He asked, "Why should we be so sad on this occasion? It will not last forever. The reveille of another and an endless day will arouse them from their slumbers; and in that last and greatest review, when worlds look on and Eternity bends to listen, may the soldier know no memory to upbraid and no fear to startle. Yes, there is another reveille to be sounded and in response to which I can see a wonderful scene. Coming from the right is Ulyses S. Grant and from the left is Robert E. Lee. Everything puts on a death-like stillness in anticipation of what will happen when these two great warriors meet. They approach each other and strike hand in hand in eternal peace.

This brings forth such an applause from above that shakes the very throne on which sits the Almighty God. Then came McClelland and Johnston and they strike hand in hand, and so on as I look, the commanders all meet each other and the scene grows more and more populous as the host of warriors come from either side. The hardest thing for me to do, as well as for hundreds of others to do with whom I have talked, was to fire on that great flag we now all honor. But let me say here that if ever again we are called to defend it, we will be with you, veterans of the blue, give man for man, and brain for brain, and vie with you in shedding blood to save it from dishonor."

"The blue and the gray are the colors of God,
They are seen in the sky at even,
And many a noble, gallant soul,
Has found them passports to Heaven."

CHAPTER XVI.

Major Albert J. Russell was made a Mason in Charleston, S. C., Washington Lodge No. 5, F. & A. M., in 1853, raised to the degree of Master Mason February 8, 1855, and made a Life Member 1857.

He was one of the petitioners for a dispensation to form a Lodge which afterwards became Duval Lodge No. 18. At the first election of officers of the Lodge, December, 1869, Brother Russell was elected Worshipful Master, and re-elected in the following years: 1870, 1871 and 1872.

Mrs. Russell,

DEAR MADAM: As there is no record in existence of the manner in which Brother Russell came in possession of his Past Master's jewel, I will give you the facts as near as I can from memory.

The idea of presenting a Past Master's jewel had never been thought of in Jacksonville, and perhaps not in Florida, until Brother Russell past out of the chair after three years in the office of Worshipful Master of Duval Lodge No. 18. I mentioned to some of the brethren that it would be a very pleasant surprise to Brother Russell to receive a jewel from his Lodge, and suggested to them that we get the jewel without his knowledge and have it presented to him in the Grand Lodge which would meet in this city in a few weeks. At the next meeting of the Lodge, and before his successor had been installed, Brother Russell was detained and the Senior Warden opened the Lodge, when a motion was made and unanimously adopted to appropriate funds for purchasing a jewel, and Bro. E. F. Gilbert was appointed a committee of one to purchase the same. A few minutes after this business had been com-

pleted Brother Russell came into the Lodge, resumed his station and the business of the evening completed, the officers who had been elected were installed, he then passed out of the office of Worshipful Master.

This occurred on the 27th day of December, 1872. The next February the Grand Lodge convened in this city, and on the second day of the session the Grand Secretary (Brother Dawkins) presented the jewel to Brother Russell, and his surprise, when called upon, was so marked that it was noticed by all present, but his response was the most eloquent I ever listened to, and took the members so completely by surprise that when the time came for the election of officers he received the highest office in the gift of the Grand Lodge. Four years ago the records and all the property of the Lodge were burned, and most of the members then living have passed away, and the circumstance known only to a very few persons.

Very truly yours,

ENOS WASGATE.

*Brother Albert J. Russell was elected and installed M. W. G. M., February 13, 1873.

M. W. Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Florida, assembled in Annual Grand Communication at the Masonic Hall in the city of Jacksonville, Jan. 13, 1874. M. W. Albert J. Russell, Grand Master.

Another year has past, and its failures and errors are of record, as well as all the good that may have been accomplished and we are permitted to convene in Grand Lodge again under circumstances of peace, harmony and prosperity. And, brothers, I invite you most earnestly to join with me in an invocation to the Grand Master of the Universe, that he may grant us the enlightening influence of His Holy Spirit, and to offer a thank offering for manifold and tender mercies bestowed upon us

*(An extract from the annual address by the Grand Master found in Grand Proceedings,)

during the past Masonic year.

While we may justly boast of the immutability of our time-honored Institution, yet there are constant changes going on about us calculated to inspire us somewhat with sadness. The recurring Annual Assembling of our Grand Lodge exhibits to us new faces and reminds us of pleasant associations of the past with many we have learned to love, but who, from various causes, are here no more. But the past is finished—the mighty present is before us; and the responsibility of the future is before us. Let us gather up our energies and bend them to the accomplishment of our work, as it is presented to us, remembering that it must pass the square of the Grand Master above, who rules and tries all men and things, or else we must fail. It has been my aim, in my visitations and correspondence with the particular Lodges, to present Masonry as a great system of moral science tending to elevate and ennoble man, and that wherever it has failed to do this, it was because it was misapplied and wrongly taught. Masons everywhere, should learn and feel that, while we boast of our Order, and while we look back to the building of the illustrious Solomon's Temple for many of our beautiful lessons, the days for rendering up our duties in the temple, as of old, are past, and now each Mason is constituted his own Hiram, and that he is charged with building a personal temple, eternal and immortal, in which the living God must dwell, or else corruption and vice.

When our brethren of Memphis were visited by the terrible scourge, yellow fever, and the cry of the distressed brother, and the wail of the widow and orphan were wafted throughout the land, I felt moved to do something to aid them in their sorrow, and published in the papers of this city a call upon the Lodges to do what they could and received prompt and generous responses.

(He closed by saying :) And now, dear brethren, I bring the record of my labors to a close, and ask you to review them





ALBERT J. RUSSELL, GRAND MASTER, 1875.

with an indulgent eye. If I have been in error in any of my official acts, it has been an error of the judgment and not the will, and I shall, with pleasure and gratitude, be corrected.

And now let us, in harmony, proceed to work in the discharge of our remaining duties, shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart, vying with each other as to who can best agree; then, indeed shall we be able to force from men around us the acclamation, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The special committee reported thus as they reviewed the Grand Master's address:

"For the commendable zeal of the M. W. Grand Master in his effort to relieve the Memphis sufferers, the thanks of the Grand Lodge is due as well as to the particular Lodges for their prompt response to his call on their behalf."

H. W. LONG, HENRY J. STEWART, M. BOWES,	}	Committee.
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In 1875 the Grand Lodge assembled in Annual Grand Communication in the city of Tallahassee, January 12th.

* *Brethren of the Grand Lodge*: Another year has flown, and is numbered with the cycles of ages past, and we are permitted to assemble together again, the recipients of the infinite mercy of the Grand Master of the Universe; and I earnestly invite you to join with me in hearty thanksgiving to Him for His mercy and loving kindness and in obedience to our earliest Masonic lesson, to invoke the presence of His Holy Spirit, to enlighten our understandings and prepare us for the proper discharge of the important duties that devolve upon us.

I have been much pleased in the contemplation of the peculiar character of the Masonic work in this Jurisdiction, and peculiarly so during the past eight or ten years, during which time sectional strife, political asperity, hatred, and the bitterness of soul, growing out of a fratricidal war has run so high, as to threaten to disrupt society. Many of our Lodges

*M. W., Albert J. Russell, Grand Master, delivered an address found in the Grand Proceedings of 1875.

situated in the midst of communities that may truly be said to be cosmopolitan, containing citizens ever going and returning from every State in our broad Union, and, indeed, from almost every country, have held out to view the pleasing fact that Masonry furnishes a platform upon which men of every political and religious creed and faith, trusting in God ; of whatever State and nation, may and do meet and strike hands in the exemplification of universal brotherhood, in the family of man, and in the acknowledgment of the common fatherhood of God.

In many, very many instances where brethren from a far-off Jurisdiction, stricken by fell disease, hearing of the life-giving, health-restoring qualities of our beautiful sunny climate, have left fond ones and the endearments of home and come hither; alas! many of them too late, and finding themselves sinking in the struggle, have called for their stronger brethren; then I have seen quietly and unostentatiously displayed the beautiful influence of our Fraternity upon the human heart.

I have seen our brethren minister to these afflicted ones through days and weeks of a lingering and painful illness; smooth their pillows, pour into their hearts the consolation of fraternal love, receive their last words and wishes for safe and speedy transmission to loved ones far away at home, and then, in mournful procession move away to the silent city of our loved dead, and with our sublime service give them decent sepulture; thus performing work that will surely pass inspection by the unerring square. No questions: "Where are you from? What are your political sentiments?" But recognizing the fraternal tie—doing a brother's work. Thus have many of our Lodges been engaged, realizing the truth, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Indeed all over the Jurisdiction the Lodges are doing a good work, cultivating brotherly love, holding up to each other the truth that moral rectitude is the chief essential to the Masonic character.

Under such circumstances may I not congratulate you,

brethren, upon this occasion, and express the earnest hope that our Craft may be found always thus engaged, producing work, the good effects of which may be felt for ages to come.

I am also much pleased to call your attention to the pleasant and fraternal intercourse existing between this Grand Jurisdiction and those of all the States of the Union, as also those of foreign countries, but more particularly to the Grand Lodge of Canada and the Grand Lodge of Quebec. I received circular letters from J. Carrol Brent, Esq., Secretary of the Washington Monument Society, asking the aid of the Fraternity in completing the monument, and thereby wiping out the deepest stain perhaps now resting upon our national escutcheon. I earnestly commend this matter to your consideration. Our revered and loved Washington was not only the Father and defender of his country, our own proud land, but he held a conspicuous and important relation to our Fraternity. He had much to do with regulating the affairs separating the Lodges in the Colonies from the control of the Mother Grand Lodge of England, and establishing Jurisdictional Sovereignities in America. Let us do all we can in assisting to complete the monument to his memory.

Brethren, I have completed my report of labor done during the year. In addition I would say that I have the consciousness of having tried to administer the affairs of the Fraternity to the best of my ability. If I have erred or in any way neglected or wounded any brother; I ask to be forgiven, and afforded an opportunity to make such reparation as Honor and Fraternal love may require.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Grand Master.

On January 14, 1875, Bro. Albert J. Russell was unanimously re-elected Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of the State of Florida, met in Jacksonville, January 11, 1876.

Grand Master Albert J. Russell delivered his annual address, found in full in Grand Lodge Proceedings of '76.

Brethren of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Florida.

Once more we are assembled together under circumstances of no ordinary character; peculiarly blessed at the hands of the Grand Architect of the Universe, in the enjoyment of full health and strength and of our reasoning faculties; blessed in our basket and our store, with an almost entire absence from sorrow and bereavement, we are permitted to come to the transaction of business, and to review our labors of the past year. With grateful hearts and hands we come; and again I earnestly invite you to join me in thanksgiving to Almighty God, and to invoke his sanction and blessing upon our Annual Communication, that all we may do may redound to His honor and the good of the Craft we represent, and that our time honored brotherhood may prove a great good in the interest of the people among whom we live.

For forty-seven years the M. W. Grand Lodge of Florida has met; a retrospective glance over these years that have passed and gone will bring to view some most important and startling changes in secular affairs, in the very foundation of our social relations; and yet in the midst of all these, our beloved order has maintained her integrity, has steadily advanced for good, and has steadily pointed her sons to God, as the only unchanging hope and trust in the midst of all these changes, trials, or dangers; and to-day I am privileged to congratulate you upon the harmony, peace and fraternal love that prevails within all our borders; upon the absence of strife, enmity and discord, and the prevalent spirit to elevate and purify the standard of our worth.

Indeed, in my observations made while reading the proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions, I discover that Masonry is everywhere taking high ground, and as it should, is becoming the synonym of truth, honesty and purity of character; and yet, out of this bright and beautiful picture I fear I see a cloud arising out of which a storm may come that will produce discord and strife, unless handled with great care and

prudence. I refer to the now moted question of the recognition of colored Masons in a Grand Lodge of their own. Our sister Grand Lodge of Ohio, in a pamphlet issued by them styled "New Day, New Duty," undertakes to argue and urge this recognition. The Grand Master, Bro. Asa H. Battin influenced, I have no doubt, by what seems to be a great Centennial gush, at present deluging a large portion of our country, writes beautifully of the Good Samaritan who pours oil into the nations wounds, healing them all, yet he is actually advocating that which if in these years is effected, would make such wounds upon all the Southern Jurisdiction as I fear would never be healed. Does our brother for a moment stop to consider the vast horde of utterly ignorant negroes liberated in the South? Does he contemplate this recognition from the Ohio standpoint alone; or has he paused for a moment to think what this recognition would inflict upon his brethren of the South; a mass of men utterly ignorant, incapable of appreciating in the remotest degree, the first principles of Masonry, to be thrust upon us here, or else the pleasant relations now and heretofore existing throughout our country even withstanding the ravages and hatred growing out of a fratricidal war to be fully and forever disrupted and broken! Our brethren of Ohio should remember the difference in society as it relates to the colored man there, as well as all over the North and West, and here in Florida as in all the Southern and formerly slave States.

There is but one parallel in all the world's history to the uprooting of the very foundations of society and its established conventionalities, in the South in the emancipation of the slaves, and that is the liberating from and carrying out the ancient Israelites from Egyptian bondage; and now, for a moment let us consider these two great parallels, and see if we cannot draw some wholesome lessons for our own safe guidance in the great question before us, the one is largely the result of man's caprice and fanaticism; true, we cannot believe that so great a

moral result could have come to pass without permission and endorsement, so to speak, from Almighty God, yet, I say it was very largely the result of man's caprice, and has so far been conducted by him—the other was directly the work of the Almighty; it was He who sent Moses directly to the King with the demand that His people should be freed, and permitted to go and establish themselves as a nation amid the nations of the world. It was He who when the King refused, organized their march, and built up their pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. It was He who conducted them between the steadfast walls of an obedient sea, and in turn made these walls melt, as it were, again into their native element and destroy their proud masters; and yet in the midst of all this display of Omnipotent power in their behalf, did He think that generation fit to go up and occupy the promised land and build themselves into a nation? No! for if he had he would not have taken them through the long circuitous, unknown route through a dry and barren wilderness, requiring a term of forty years, during which almost every Israelite who had left Egypt was buried beneath the dry sands and a new generation had grown up, educated under God's own government and training, and these only entered the promised inheritance. Now are the masses of the colored men of the late slave States fitted and prepared to take, at once, position side by side with the former citizen or Mason? I am fully of the opinion that if our good brother, as many of the brethren of his own Jurisdiction have done, would sojourn a while with us, he would certainly be of the opinion that the fullness of time had not yet come, and that while this measure might possibly work good with him, it would work destruction to others of the Great Fraternity of Masons.

He closed with these words: And now, Brethren, I bring my report to a close, for three successive years you have honored me with this exalted position, and during the whole of the time, my intercourse with the Craft has been most delight-

ful. Though I have had on two or more occasions to enforce the law in the strongest points, yet I have always met with the hearty support of the Brethren; and if any thing like success has attended my administration, or if I have been enabled to achieve any good, it has been chiefly attributable to the manner in which my hands have been upheld by the Craft.

My intercourse with the officers of the Grand Lodge has been most pleasant especially with our R. W. Grand Secretary, Brother Dawkins. He will always have my thanks for his many official kindnesses.

And now, Brethren, I feel the time has come when I should give way to some brother more capable of filling this high place, better discharge its duties and hereby contribute more largely to the general good than I have been able to do; assuring you at the same time, of my undying devotion to our beloved Fraternity, and pledging you that I shall always be found among her workers as well as among those who enjoy her many blessings, until the Grand Master on High shall call me, as I hope, from labor here, to refreshment eternal and immortal in His Celestial Grand Lodge above.

ALBERT J. RUSSELL, Grand Master.

M. W. Henry J. Stewart, P. G. M., offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted:

Resolved, That so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, be published in pamphlet form as soon as practicable, and that copies be furnished other Grand Jurisdictions, as well as our own particular Lodges by our Grand Secretary, and that it shall be the duty of each W. M. in this Jurisdiction to read the same upon the reception thereof to their respective Lodges in open Lodge.

A special committee was appointed by Brother Russell to take into consideration the subject of building a Masonic Temple.

WILLIAM B. TAYLOR, }
DEWITT C. DAWKINS, } Committee.
HENRY W. LONG, }

During the meeting of the Grand Lodge of 1877, Brother Russell was presented with a beautiful Jewel from the Grand Lodge.

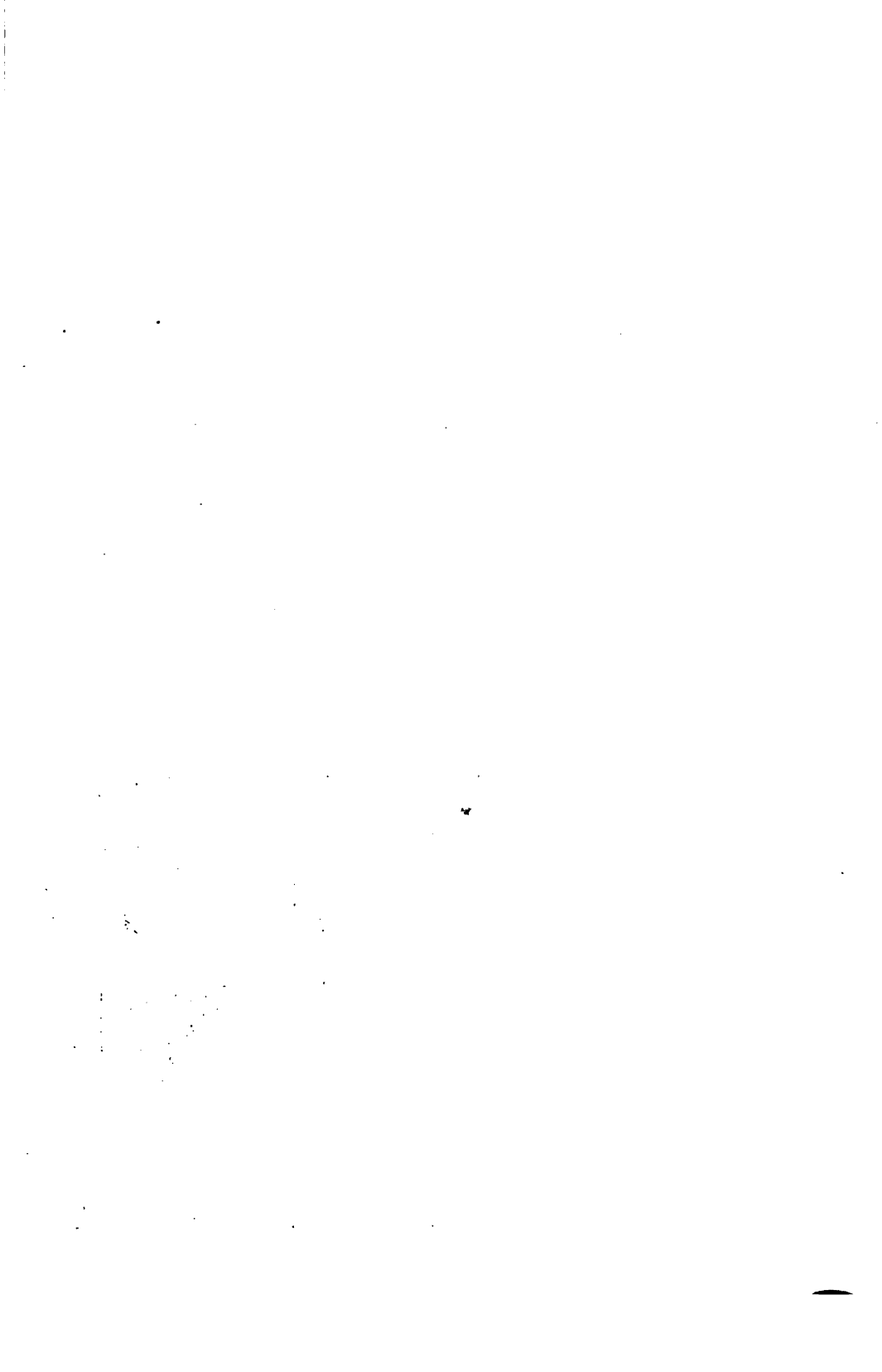
The M. W. Grand Master addressed P. G. M., Albert J. Russell, as follows:

Coming in contact with each other in our societies, as in the busy scenes of life, some of the duties which devolve upon us are exceedingly pleasant and I am about to perform one of those duties at the present time.

One year ago a resolution was unanimously adopted to have a committee appointed to purchase a P. G. M.'s Jewel, to be presented to their retiring G. M. at this session. The committee was appointed and have placed in my hands, as the result of their labors, this beautiful Jewel of artistic skill and solid gold.

And now, my Brother, it is with feelings of pride that I present it to you in the presence and behalf of this G. L., a memento of their appreciation of the valuable services rendered during your three years of service as G. M. It was often my privilege to visit the Lodges in company with you and witness the zeal and efficiency with which you performed the work and explained that which they did not really understand, as well as the skill and affability with which you presided over their deliberations, and knowing their high appreciation of your merits, I should have been surprised had they not by some suitable token manifested that your labor, in their behalf, was fully appreciated.

It is needless for me to remind you of your brilliant record during your administration of three years, for the success of the Craft during that time, is sufficient evidence that your work was well done, and in passing this to you, will add: may you live long to enjoy the possession of it; may your future life shine with as bright a lustre as emanates from this Jewel, and may your record be as pure as the metal of which it is composed, and when this earthly pilgrimage is ended and you are





P. G. MASTER'S JEWEL.

P. MASTER'S JEWEL.

called to pass through the dark valley may you receive that happy summons from the Supreme Grand Master to join that Lodge above, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

To which, in accepting the Jewel thus presented, M. W. Brother Russell responded as follows :

Most Worshipful Grand Master :

Were I governed by my emotions or my judgment in receiving this rich and beautiful Jewel, I should simply say, in the full language of my heart, I most earnestly thank you ; and in this good old English, I feel I should say enough, but I cannot refrain from more fully expressing myself.

I discover, M. W., Sir, that it is not only made of a most precious metal, but that it is also wrought in beautiful symbols, expressing truths that reach in their grand extent from earth to Heaven, and setting forth tenets and thoughts, which, if cultivated and practiced, will surely lead from a slavery of sense and passion up to a plain of life that basks amid the glorious sunshine and liberty which God alone can give, and which those only, who earnestly strive to be pure in heart, can expect to enjoy. May I not be permitted, sir, to contrast the strength of the faith of our ancient brethren, with whom these beautiful symbols originated, with our own, as they stood amid the dark gloom of the grave, the impenetrable shadows of the monster, Death.

They gazed with the eye of faith along down the vast ages of the future, until they beheld the *Omnipotent Arm*, in the person of the *coming Shiloh*, reaching down from the skies to the earth, and breaking the bars and unloosing the bolts of the tomb, and bidding the long sleeping body arise into immortal youth and beauty, and in the exercise of this faith; were enabled to behold Death in the exercise of his temporary power and exclaim.

Oh, monster ! where is thy sting ? Oh, grave ! where is thy victory ? Then, brethren, let us wear these Jewels not only as

mere jewels, but get their impressions deeply engraved on our hearts, so that we may honestly strive to practice them, until we, too, shall ascend upward from amid the clouds and darkness of baser passions, until we shall at last be with our Supreme Grand Master forever and ever.



CHAPTER XVII.

Worshipful Master and Members of Madison Lodge F. and A. M.:

MY DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS—We are met to-day to express our sorrow for and to honor the memory of our beloved fraternal dead; it is a fitting thing that a people should cherish the memory of their honored dead, and sometimes to stop by the wayside and pity those who lived in error, and passed from human activities unhonored, for a people who easily forget their dead are apt also to forget their duties and responsibilities to their living fellows, and small will be the development and elevation of such a people.

It is specially proper and in every respect becoming that as Masons we should thus hold in sacred memory our dead and make an indestructible record of their virtues and achievements upon our memories, for we who hold aloft at the graves of our deceased brethren the green sprig of Acacia declaring it to symbolize our immortal faith in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body to live in eternal life, recognizing that our brothers are not dead, but that they sleep, and shall at the sound of the trumpet of the Grand Artificer of the Universe, the Mason's God and Master over all, awake!, and spring into life again, never more to sleep the sleep of death, but to enter upon scenes of eternal activities and everlasting growth. Some of our brethren of Madison Lodge No. XI, whose names occupy their places upon the sacred roll, called over to-day, have been sleeping a long time, many years they have lain in the embrace of our zealous mother earth, our country has grown apace, her population has increased amazingly, the achievements of science have been wonderful and these our dead heed it not, even our own

fair Florida has made a wonderful progress in every important line, and they heed it not. Some of these fell by the wayside, but a little while "after the terrible war cry" had pierced the ear of every citizen and soldier of our broad expanded land, had ceased, and now they have lain in peaceful sleep very nearly a quarter of a century, and the years have passed by as a noiseless zephyr, to them unheeded! and still the years are passing, and they are sleeping, what admonitions come from these to us, to cherish the passing years in all they offer us for good to be done, or suffering to be borne, and see to it that all that is enobling, enlarging and peace inspiring shall be by us improved.

They're passing away, these swift, swift years
Like a leaf on the current cast;
With never a break in the rapid flow,
We watch them as one by one they go
Into the beautiful past.

As light as the breath of the Thistle down,
As proud as a lover's dream,
As pure as the blush in the sea shell's throat
As sweet as the wood bird's wooing note
So tender and sweet they seem.

One after another we see them pass
Down the dimlighted stair,
We hear the sound of their steady tread
In the steps of centuries long since dead
As beautiful and as fair.

There are only a few years left to love,
Shall we waste them in idle strife;
Shall we trample under our ruthless feet
These beautiful blossoms, rare and sweet,
By the dusty ways of life?

There are only a few, swift years, Oh let
No envious taunts be heard!
Make life's fair pattern of rare design
And fill up the measure with love's sweet wine
But never an angry word.

Such are some of the lessons and admonitions we may learn to-day as we hold sweet communion with the dead, our

brethren, life is a precious boon, and is made more precious as we who have it still improve it to the honor of Him, who bestows it, and the blessing of our fellow-men.

Brethren, our beautiful ritual tells us of the three important stages of human life, youth, manhood and old age, and all nature tells us of the next, the last, death, and zealously admonishes us to so use the days of youth in preparing and equipping ourselves in the educational and moral duties so that we may be prepared for the rigorous duties and responsibilities of manhood, so that in an honorable discharge of these we may reasonably expect a peaceful and respected old age, and at last lay us down in an honored death. Let us heed these important lessons and admonitions and so live that our work may be ready for the unerring square and measure, so that we may pass and be welcomed to an abundant entrance.

We call this a Lodge of sorrow; but why should we be sad? Already we have seen that our dead shall wake from death's cold slumber, and what an awakening shall it be, if to justification, the wondrous work of God's infinite creative power shall suddenly begin to dawn upon our astonished minds, and like the infant, scarce a week old, catches a glimpse of the magic light of the sun or hears the warbling of a bird, looks as though half astonished, half delighted, and yet bewildered with all the beauties of the brand new world into which it has come, it turns and peacefully and trustingly gazes into mother's face and mother's eye, and then nestles under her arm in a gesture of safety men know not of now. So shall it be with the resurrected. All wonder at the new glories and revelations of God's plans and wondrous works, the newly-awakened will look toward Him who hath redeemed us; and begin to live, on and on, how long, who can tell? Then, brethren, to do our work well, to live right, to die right, and wake again, is and should be, the one, central aim and aspiration of our lives, in every department of our thoughts, activities and ambitions.

The ancient Greeks and Romans were specially famous for the high regard and reverence in which they held their dead. Perhaps it was carried too far by these people, in that they deified their heroes and heroines; it is also true that they had not progressed as the nations of the world have since, and yet in many respects they were grand people, and by their system of government, philosophy and arts, gave an impetus to human progress and development that made its impress on the progress of to-day, and gave the world many grand specimens of grand manhood and grand womanhood. As Cicero, who had the moral courage to stand in the Roman Senate and denounce the terror of war, Cataline. Caesar, who by his prowess, became the unwitting vehicle of the Christian civilization into Northern Europe, and the British Isles, whence it flowed into this new world of ours. Demosthenes, the lorn stammerer, by laudable resolve to overcome a natural impediment, stood and spoke to the air on the brink of a surging ocean and became the famous orator of Greece, and afterwards one of her revered philosophers and tutors of young men. It was Rome; who gave us the mother of the Gracchi; who bade her sons go forth to battle to return to her honored soldiers of the Empire or borne upon their shields, dead, but true; who gave us also that Roman matron, who sitting in her widow's weeds while her children sported at her feet, when asked by a Senator, a friend of her late husband, "Senora, where are thine adornments, thy jewels?" and pointing to her beautiful children, said: "These, Senator, are my jewels and my joys."

So with these great people, as with us, a proper reverence of the dead, and a love of cherishing their memory, tends to the development of a nobility of life and character that in their turn act upon and develop all the fine emotions of our nature.

But some will say, "Is not the past dead, and are we not living in the present?" The awful present! Awful because

of its mighty work to be done; its terror-inspiring responsibilities; its fearful relations to the unseen future. Ah! the past is full of the purest gold, the gold of established truth, and its mighty lessons of not only the achievements of those who are now, the world over, citizens of the silent Necropolis of the earth, but also their failures, the one standing forth as beacons to arrest our gaze and stimulating us to go forth and not only repeat these great works of our ancestry, but to build better, to excel them, while the other, the failures, stand out also as beacons, and though the sheen may be ghostly and fearful, yet it warns us against the errors, the failures, the emptiness of these predecessors and we, if wise, flee them. So to-day, we may, in the deepest love and profoundest reverence, call the roll of our honored dead whom we call from the chambers of memory, and review their lives and histories, and gather gems of example from them, which polished by the greater march of progress in our day over theirs, will shine out as beacon lights along the unseen and unknown path of each of our lives, pointing out brilliant opportunities which we may achieve, and fearful pitfalls which we may shun.

“Oh, listen, man,
A voice within us speaks the startling words.
‘Man, thou shalt never die.’ Celestial voices
Hymn it around our souls; according harps,
By angel fingers touched, when the mild stars
Of morning sang together, sound forth still
The song of our great immortality.”

In a mysterious Providence it was given to woman to be the first to proclaim the glorious tidings that the bolts of the tomb had been forever broken, its gloom and terror dispelled, as they joyously exclaimed, “He is risen,” and thus announced man’s immortality. I love to contemplate the two Marys as they walked along the roadway, talking together as only women can talk, when on holy duty bent; I love to think of them as they bore fragrant flowers, rich perfumes and myrrh, with which to sweeten and beautify the grave of their friend and

Lord, and thus hastening in morning's early hour, ere the king of day had arisen, to kiss the hills of Palestine. Suddenly they stopped, and remembering how the Arimathæan sepulchre had been closed and sealed, one said to the other, "Who shall roll away the great stone for us?" But stopping not longer to wonder, on they went to perform their mission of love and adoration, when lo! on arrival at the tomb, they see the stone removed, the sepulchre empty, and looking, a man sat on a stone, and well-nigh distraught they inquire: "Oh! sir, tell us where they have carried our friend; who hath taken him?"

Then came the great revelation, as he who sat by the way, in sweeter tones, perhaps, than this same friend had ever used, He said, "Mary," and the women, breathless, stood at first aghast. And then in whispered tones they unite in one saying, "'Tis the Lord!" Then came the commission, "Go tell my brethren what ye have seen," and with swift winged feet they fly, and meeting the friends He had spoken of, they shouted, "He is risen!" So woman, first at death and last lingering at the burial, were first to announce man's great immortality, and hope springs anew in every heart, and a permanent home, splendid beyond compare; whose music is the song of angels and the redeemed; whose light is the radiance of the face of Him; who redeemed us; who broke the bolts and bonds of the grave; who illustrated in Himself the resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul becomes the hope of all.

And now, to Masons everywhere, those somber monitors, the spade, the mattox, the coffin and the grave, lose their dread and are swallowed up in the green sprig of acacia, illustrating the Mason's faith in the risen dead, and the immortal life.

JUNE 18, 1877.

Laying the corner-stone of the new building being erected for the occupation of the Mechanics and Alert companies of this city by the F. & A. M. of Florida.

Oration by Past Grand Master A. J. Russell, ex-Chief of Fire Department of Jacksonville.

Address of P. G. M., A. J. Russell, was in his usual stirring vein of eloquence, and was replete with gems of instruction and kindly wishes. In his dual character as an old and efficient member of the Fire Department, and as a bright and learned craftsman, he was the man for the occasion and fully justified the wisdom of the brethren in selecting him as the orator. The companies passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be extended to M. W. G. M., Albert J. Russell, for his eloquent, chaste and beautiful oration that all present so much admired.

JULY 29, 1884.

Laying the corner-stone of Duval County Court House.

The procession reached the scene at 4:30 o'clock and, under the guidance of Major A. J. Russell, acting Grand Marshal of the day, was soon conveniently arranged around the stone.

The stone is the largest artificial one ever made in the State for building purposes.

Major Russell, acting Grand Marshal, in a few remarks introduced acting Grand Master McLean, who made a most appropriate address. After the close of the ceremony, the Masons returned to their Lodge and passed resolutions of thanks; to the military companies; to Judge McLean for his able address; to Major Russell for his efficient services as Grand Marshal.

APRIL 12, 1892.

Laying the corner-stone of Nassau's County Court House.

Upon the arrival of the 11:30 train from Jacksonville, Major A. J. Russell was met by a special committee composed of Messrs. F. H. Hoyt, Chairman Board of County Commissioners; H. E. Dotterer, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; James McGiffin, W. M. of Amelia Lodge F. & A. M., and conducted to the public school where he addressed the children.

The committee next escorted him to Egmont Hotel.

The procession formed at 3 o'clock, Capt. W. L. LeFils, Marshal of the day. Those in the procession were grouped as follows:

Patrol Force; Amelia Lodge of Masons and visiting brethren; Island City Band; Fire Department; County Officials and members of the old Fernandina Volunteers.

The ceremonies of laying the corner-stone were then carried out in a solemn and impressive manner.

At the close of the ceremony, Major A. J. Russell, "the silver-tongued orator," was introduced by Chairman Hoyt, as follows:

Fellow citizens, I take pleasure in introducing to you, as the orator of

this occasion, the distinguished and beloved Floridian, Hon. Albert J. Russell.

Major Russell entertained the audience with an eloquent address on the importance of this occasion. He paid a glowing tribute to our new temple of justice; to Nassau county; to the State and to our fair city, recalling many incidents connected with his first visit to Florida, when a steamer landed him, in 1859, at our thriving little town. His remarks touched a responsive chord in the hearts of his audience, who loudly applauded him at intervals.

LAKE CITY, FLA., Dec. 31, 1891.

The impressive installation was conducted by Past Grand Master, Albert J. Russell, who, by previous invitation and arrangement, followed the exercises and ceremonies in a most appropriate address; beautiful in its emblematic application.

The Committee on Obituaries having read their report, Past Grand Master A. J. Russell arose and said:

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

May I be indulged with a few thoughts expressed in brief, just at this time?

It has been upon my heart since the dread coincidence of death in our midst came to us so rapidly following the close of our session of 1891 to pay my humble tribute to the departed. When called upon to assist Most Worshipful Brother McLean in the installation of the officers-elect and appointive for that year, I approached our Brother John Niblack, whom the brethren had advanced from the South to the West in token of their continued regard and confidence, and feeling happy in spirit, I said to him, as I was conducting him to the Place of Vows, *sotto voce* "Come, let me put you in your little bed," little did I think that the dark messenger would, in a very few days, strike his manly form prostrate, and that indeed he should be laid to rest in the bosom of our zealous Mother Earth to await the summons to enter upon eternal life. John Niblack was a noble, true, honest man and Mason; his work is done, his life is ended in the zenith of his manhood, his work is before the Eternal Grand Master, and we have reason for a lively hope that his work will pass the unerring square and

that he has been granted an abundant entrance to the Lodge on High.

Following this calamity on swift wing came the still sad intelligence that our Brother, Ira J. Carter, of Judson Lodge, had suddenly been smitten and was dead. Only a few days before, in Grand Lodge session, on the eve of an important discussion in which he knew I was deeply interested, fearing doubtless, some warmth of feeling, he approached me saying: "Permit a younger brother," and playfully I arrested him, saying: "If it is the question of the younger, it is I," and we heartily enjoyed the joke together. I well knew what he would have said and gave him assurance; but alas! as we stood there face to face and heart to heart, how remote to either was the thought that he, of such robust, strong, manly form, should die and be no more among men. He was a noble man, a friend of men, he loved his fellow-man, and therefore loved his God. Alas! he is no more among us, but doubtless he is in the enjoyment of the smile of Him whom he loved and served, and is now looking out upon scenes where all allegory is unveiled, all mystery is revealed under the effulgence of that glorious light which shines alone from the countenance of the Mason's God. The visits to our circle were not yet complete from the dread messenger, and soon came the message, the beloved wives of our brethren, Past Grand Masters McLean and Perry, the one at the seat of the Grand Lodge in this city, and the other from the gem of our Southern Keys, city of Key West, have died. Thus from the strong and robust among our brethren death had turned, and our sisters, more frail in physique, but always stronger in sympathies, fortitude and patient endurance, now were taken. I have said *our sisters*, and am I not right? For when a pure and lovely woman becomes the wife of a Mason she does and should become the sister in a high sense of every good and true Mason also.

These sisters were good, noble and true women, making glad and trustful the hearts of their husbands, and glad and

full of sunshine and joy their homes. Foremost in the work of church and home enterprises for the help and amelioration of man, they rest from their duties and labors, but, Oh! the sorrow they leave behind them, and desolation of home. How our hearts go out to these brethren in the sad hours of their distress!

Now, there seemed to be a lull in the storm of death, and our meditations were silent and sad, but only for a little while, when the fatal archer aimed higher for a more shining mark. In the Central Seat of Government one brother had builded him a home and dwelt. He was one whose Masonic lore had entered ear, hand and heart of thousands of our Craft; in secular work he had won the plaudit, "Well done." His sweet muse had times untold awakened the tenderest of our sympathies and aroused us to nobler, unselfish deeds and thoughts, and bade our aspirations to loftier aims and ambitions.

He had arisen, even in old age, in the midst of American Masonry, and from his heart, hand and head flashed splendid rays of Masonic light from sea to sea on either hand, and from the North Lakes to the South Gulf, making thousands glad.

The fatal arrow flew, 'twas well and truly aimed, and Albert Pike fell in the midst of his glory, and what was that glory? It was being a true, unostentatious man and Mason, fearing God and loving his fellow-man.

Sad revery is all this, but, Oh! my brethren, it brings with it a specious lesson, it bids us beware and be ready for any summons from the Grand Master above, and teaches us that in such readiness, with all our work true and tried, supplemented with the provision born of the infinite love of Him who made us, we may enjoy the fullness of peace in the smile of His welcome home to us.

Who next? was the startling query rushing upon my thoughts and I closed the dread scenes, praying God to help me and all my brethren to be ready for the call.

GRAND LODGE OF 1893.

GRAND MASTER AND BRETHREN—I do not feel I can allow this moment to pass without expressing my sorrow at the loss of my dead Brother DeWitt C. Dawkins, P. G. M. & R. W. Grand Secretary; holding and filling the last named office over a quarter of a century.

Before he was made Secretary by the choice of his brethren, I knew him as Master of the Craft in this Jurisdiction, in which high office he was just, yet merciful, his sympathy being in full tone with the Craft at large. He was, indeed, a Master-workman, gentle in spirit, learned in our lore; a strong exponent of our land marks, he was well qualified for any position thrust upon him. We were associated as Brethren of the Grand Lodge for so long a period as to make us intimate in our intercourse, and though we often differed in opinion upon subjects closely allied to the Fraternity he so much loved; and in our fervency championed our favorite theories, with zeal and warmth, when done, no matter which was sustained by the Brethren, we were satisfied, and as true Brethren as though the discussion had never occurred. My brother has crossed the dark river, I trust, finding its darkness dispelled by the radiance of the face of the Grand Architect of the Universe, to whom his work has been delivered, to be tried by the Measure and Square, and may we not trust has met the welcome words, "pass in."

A delightful incident occurred between the brother and myself, just about ten days before stricken with the disease which was the final summons to meet the Grand Lodge above; we had some business correspondence, and in writing me, the last letter I received, having concluded the business on hand, he wrote, "I feel, Brother Russell, that my health demands, if I can arrange for it, an outing this summer. My asthma seems to almost carry me off sometimes, but, my brother, I am ready whenever the summons comes, for I have tried to do and be right."

I was struck with these words, and laid the letter in a drawer, determined that as soon as I could snatch an hour from my pressing official duties, to write him at length.

Some ten days passed, and receiving the morning daily, I read that my brother had been stricken with that presager of death, paralysis, and I thanked God that my brother had written me these words ere he confronted the last enemy. I am ready, my work is done and ready for inspection. I have been painstaking, I have tried to do my work aright; I have the inner-consciousness that all is right. Such is the climax of my brother's life. This death is to us a grievous loss, but to him, doubtless, an eternal gain.

By unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge, Brother Russell was requested to furnish the Grand Secretary with a copy of his remarks, and that they be spread upon the minutes of this Grand Communication.

JAN. 4, 1892.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida assembled in Special Communication in Jackson Lodge No. 1 F. & A. M., in the City of Tallahassee, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the U. S. Public Building.

Past Grand Master Albert J. Russell as Grand orator delivered the oration:

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, Ladies and Gentlemen :

From time immemorial it has been the usage of the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons to lay, with certain ritualistic ceremonies peculiar to themselves, the corner-stone of public and other edifices; when requested so to do by the parties interested, and in conformity to this custom the Grand Lodge of the Craft has been assembled here to-day, and have in your presence performed this duty. To many doubtless this has appeared a meaningless and empty ceremony, but such is not the case; on the contrary, it is full of meaning, and has a two-fold object and lesson.

First, It is designed to teach substantiability of building homes and public, as well as ecclesiastical structures that

shall at once become homes and edifices; monuments of one generation handed down to those to come, interweaving the past with the present and stimulating the future to permanent character and deeds.

This is needed, especially in our country, so young and such a domain to subdue and occupy, and so great a rush of thought and activity, that it has appeared as though we, as a people, really did not have time for real, substantial building; and the result has been a cheap, light and consequently unsubstantial type of structure to serve a present purpose, and, after the rush is past, to be supplanted by other buildings more substantial and permanent.

It is because of this hurried and imperfect type of structure that, as a people, we are so often pained at the recountal of the collapse of huge buildings, and great loss of life and wounds that ensue. It is only a few years since that the patriotic women of America were appealing to the Masonic Fraternity for contributions, raising a fund enabling them to so re-habitate the home of him—lovingly called the “Father of his Country”—the home of Washington; that it might stand as an illustration and remembrance of the heroic patriotism that should characterize every American citizen.

Our domain is so expansive, so broad, that every American citizen, whether native born or adopted, feels that the limit of his home and rights are as limitless as are the bounds of the nation; so that we are on the Atlantic strand to-day, and to-morrow at the Golden Gate on the Pacific; on the Northern Lakes to-day, on the Southern Gulf next day; in this State to-day, and in or through a dozen others to-morrow. This condition of domicile has had much to do with the temporary structures in our country. Sometimes we have been led to wonder at the spontaneous patriotism of American citizenship, coming, as it does, in the absence of an abiding home-life, with all that it implies: we are surprised that in this view of the matter the Old World citizen, the citizen of the European

Nation does not excel us in patriotism. When one of the great marshals of France had returned from some African war, all scarred and begrimmed, and was being feted, a noted lady was present, who had been listening with bated breath to his recountals of the terrors, the hair-breadth escapes, and his achievements of war. Carried away in admiration of the man, she exclaimed : "Oh, *Marechal*, what is patriotism ?" And the grand old warrior, it is said, arose, as though to give full room to his inspired soul, and said : "Madam, it is the love of home." The very house in which the man was born, where his father and his father's father was born ; the love of the grand old trees 'neath whose shades he sported in boyhood's days and listened to the nurse's stories of the gallant deeds and brilliant achievements of his ancestors ; it is the love of these, the love of home that makes the love of country, and love of country makes patriotism ; but how little of this reaching back into a glorious past have we in our country. Our government has for several years constructed only such as are permanent and of great duration ; in this we rejoice. Church edifices of enduring character are being multiplied. Here to-day we are laying the corner-stone of a governmental building, a temple of justice, combined with the swift winged messenger of mail, and other departments of national business, the structure of which bears evidence of great duration which shall stand amid these everlasting hills which, as it were, lift their heads in very early morn to catch the kiss of the rising sun—a witness to American character ; stability of purpose and scientific attainment.

There is another lesson designed by these ceremonies more important still : it is the building of human character, and in this how painstaking should be the builder. From a Masonic standpoint, the corner-stone of human character is an abiding trust in Almighty God, obedience to His revealed law, cemented in truth and honor, her sons built upon such a foundation for character should be marked men in the midst

of human society, they should be trusted as men of unswerving honor, safe men, because trusting in the Great Artificer of the Universe—men whose word should be as good as their bond.

My brethren, it is our duty, under our vows, to be all this so long as we profess before our fellow-citizens to be Masons and wear these insignia of our Fraternity, we should be such men as I have described, or else we shall be but false hypocrites, not only in the eyes of our fellow-men, but in His eyes whose unerring square will surely detect every irregularity in our lives and work.

We have to-day a novel feature in our procession and ceremonies; it is that the children of this city, State and county are present and participating; these cheery, beautiful children, whom God has given you, are the corner-stone of your future social structure. How well such chief stones should be prepared—such a foundation should be laid. Oh! fathers, who are older in years, whose temples are already adorned with silver threads, and you who are younger, just over the threshold of fatherhood, and, more than all, you dearest mothers, and you faithful teachers, I charge you, as you fear a final reckoning, to see to it that this all-important constituent in our growth and true development as a community, State and nation, that these dear children are properly prepared to enter upon the great privilege of citizenship in our vast country—an object lesson prepared and hung out by the hand of the Great Architect of nations, illustrated by the divine idea, as the best form of human government so that all we shall do and say shall redound to the good of each other and the glory of God.

Our ancient and honorable Fraternity stands to-day in the midst of the blaze of the civilization of the Nineteenth century, lighted by the coming of Shiloh, the same unchanged and immutable Masonry it was when the Jewish civilization reached its splendid climax in the magnificent temple of Almighty God on Mount Moriah, and it is wonderful to tell, that notwithstanding the vicissitudes of human life, the waste of

time, the ravages of war, the vile persecutions of fierce bigotry, it has thus survived, and meets the wants of men and serves a noble purpose as well in this progressive civilization as it did in the days of Solomon, the wise. This is because it is planted on Jehovah, the Eternal, and accepts His law as the rule and guide for its faith and justice ; it demands faith in no human creed, and with sects it has no affiliation, and political strife it avoids as a deadly pestilence ; it pays loyal allegiance to the government under which it exists, and renders unto Caesar that which is Caesar's ; it places man directly before his God, and commands him to put his trust in Him, and teaches him in all trials and difficulties to call confidently upon Him, to square his actions with all mankind, and charges him to walk uprightly before God and men.

Such is Masonry, and now in conclusion, in the name of this great Fraternity, I invoke the supervision of the Great Architect over the further progress of this building, that it may reach perfection without accident or hindrance, and serve well the purpose for which it is designed.

JANUARY 17, 1893.

M. W. Brother Albert J. Russell was called upon by the Grand Master to receive the Temple on behalf of the Grand Lodge.

Brother Russell said :

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren ; I am taken by surprise to-day ; the Grand Master said to me this morning, "the Temple will be delivered to-morrow, and I want you to receive it on behalf of the Grand Lodge in an appropriate manner," and I was preparing to obey his mandate, but now I must do so to-day.

What more joyous, pleasant duty could a Mason be called upon to perform than to receive such a present, as is this beautiful, commodious Temple ? I heartily congratulate you, my brethren, that at last, after many long, weary years of home-



MASONIC TEMPLE.

THE
LIBRARY OF THE
MUSEUM OF
ART AND HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK

lessness our Grand Lodge has a home.

Home! Oh, how much does that word, sweetest among the sweet, express! It means repose and establishment. Who of you all; who, in the past, had no home of your own, does not remember your reposeful exaltation when you crossed, for the first time, the threshold of a home of your own, and stood and witnessed your family as they gaily passed through its portals? Oh! it was a moment of still joy, of thanksgiving, of the deepening, broadening, uplifting experience which naught else of earth can give; and, brethren, it matters not whether a mansion or a very humble house, if it is a *home* in the *true* sense—for home means unity, harmony, mutuality and stability; it means a type of Heaven.

Yes, we are at home to-day, our home. Let us thank God for His blessing. As we are told of that Temple, it was so favored of the Grand Artificer as that no circumstance marred its harmony or system, save that one sad and fatal circumstance during the whole period of its structure, so ours has met with no disturbing element, or cause, to delay or mar its construction, during the year of its progress, and to-day the representatives from all the 150 Masonic families of this Jurisdiction are gathered here in our home. So mote it be.

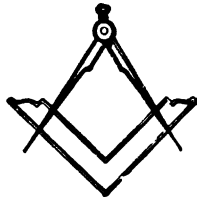
My mind and heart have both delighted themselves, as I have been led to contemplate, in my fancy, the absorbing, inspiring joy of our ancient brethren; when the time, so long looked for, had come; when the Temple on which they had toiled so many years, should be completed; when the beautiful and unique corner-stone should be laid; when, at the base of the altar, the Shekinah, in the Holy of Holiest, they should lay their aprons, trowels, chisels and setting mauls, for which, on that sacred edifice, there should be no more use; when the great Temple, the first erected to the living God, the Jehovah of Israel, should be dedicated to Him and His service forever, what ecstasy of joy was there among the Craft. They looked back upon their work amid the cedars of Lebanon;

how the timbers had been hewed and fitted for their place in the building, how the stones that composed the symmetrical walls had been hewn from the quarries and fitted and numbered to their places; how the various castings had been moulded and cast in the clay grounds of Succoth and Zaradotah, and how through the toilsome roads of the mountain's path and the rough sea they transported them to Joppa, and thence overland to Jerusalem, and most of all, how gladly, they had been faithful and true through all this to the completion of the Temple and its dedication that day, richly holding the consciousness of duty done and well achieved.

So, too, I have no doubt, our brethren, the Building Committee, are among us all the most happy to-day. When first appointed and commissioned to do this great work, there were shadows of doubt all round about, which brought gloom to the heart of some, but presently remembering there were no shadows where there was no light, they took courage and financial difficulties were overcome in a business-like manner, plans were formulated and the work was begun; the foundation was carefully built, and the superstructure in due time rose steadily until complete as we receive it to-day. It has been my privilege to visit the work several times, at different stages of the construction of the building, and I am prepared to say it is well built, substantial and strong; beautiful in its proportions and arrangements, it is an honor to our Fraternity, and a compliment to our city and State; it will stand, unless some great convulsion of nature should come, for generations to come, a land-mark pointing out to them the faith, courage and enterprise of their fathers. While a full mead of praise is due each and every one of the Building Committee for their faithful work, no doubt every one present is ready to ascribe a double measure to our reverend and beloved brother, W. D. Barnett, whose financial ability and business character enabled us to procure the money necessary to our great enterprise. Brother Barnett has builded a monument unto himself in the

hearts and memories of the Craft, indestructible and pure. Our brother, M. A. Fuller, has, as the builder, the architect and manager, also made himself a lasting monument in the gratitude and memory of his brethren. I do not believe the earnest, diligent, zealous devotion of all these brethren of the Building Committee, especially the two specially mentioned, was excelled by Solomon, Hiram of Tyre or Hiram Abibal in their devotion to the building which shone from the summit of Moriah, in Palestine.

And now, by the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and in behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, I accept this beautiful Temple at the hands of the Committee, and say to them in your presence: "Well done, ye good and faithful servants and brethren."



CHAPTER XVIII.

SYNOPSIS

OF THE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY P. G. M. ALBERT J. RUSSELL, BEFORE CITRUS LODGE, JUNE 24, 1895.

I believe that when God called Abraham to get up out of his native land and go to a country which He should show him and give him and his seed for an inheritance, that God opened the spring source of our matchless civilization, the civilization of the 19th century, the Christian civilization. Man, idolatrous and superstitious had to all intents and purposes expelled the Creator, God, from the beautiful earth he had made for our dwelling place, and in his stead had set up Gods of stone, metal and wood. Of course as a result of this, man rapidly descended into utmost degradation and polluted sin, archæologists tell us that such was the character of the lives and sins of men, that had it not been arrested the human race would have died out or else would have been a monstrous breed of hybrids hateful in all their character. So, I speak it with all reverence, it had become necessary that God should have Him a nation, a people of whom He, Himself, should be the very central idea, a God invisible to the physical eye of man, but always present in the activities and developments of man, a living, thinking, working God. And he had selected Abraham because of his loyal faith in Him as the parent stock whence such a people should descend. Patriarchal government was formed and the Hebrew people became the pupils of the Almighty; development and growth ensued and by a strange circumstance the posterity of this faithful man, were led into Egypt and brought into contact with the more scientific and practical Egyptians, they were destined to build a nation, they had been monads, herders and

sheperds all their lives, and they were to be fitted for God's great plan, and this contact was necessary, evil rulers came into power and the Hebrews were enslaved, and now the hand of God strikes another great stroke at the widening stream of civilization and brought Moses to the burning bush, every capitular Mason present to-day will appreciate this circumstance, and this great leader of men was commissioned as God's ambassador to the Pharaohs with the demand that His people be permitted to go up to the land He had given them. I cannot detail all the movements here to-day it would require too much time and would weary your patience and exhaust my strength. Suffice it to say the promised land was occupied, and the government of Judges was set up and now Israel prospered, and grew, her God, the Jehovah, had been heard of by all tribes and nations contiguous and was feared, the land was being subdued and yet this peculiar people were dissatisfied, and through their Prophet, Samuel, asked for a King, and Saul, depraved, cruel Saul was anointed and crowned King of all Israel, oppression and unsuccessful wars wearied the people and the Prophet was appealed to again, and David, the shepherd boy, was anointed and crowned King. Jerusalem had become a glorious capital, the ark of the covenant rested on the summit of Moriah.

Now it had been decreed in Heaven that a house should be built upon the earth in which God should dwell in the Shekinah, David craved the honor but it was denied him because he had been a man of blood. But a promise was vouchsafed unto him that a son should be born to him who should accomplish the great work, and was fulfilled in the birth of Solomon, the wise and great. Time passed on and the glory and name of Israel's Jehovah was becoming widely known, all the advancements made were attracting the attention of the adjacent people, some to hate, some to admire and adopt, and now the Temple, God's great and beautiful house must be begun, the friendship of Hiram, King of Tyre and Sidon, was secured. The

Tyreans and Sidonians were famous for their skill and artifice, both at sea and upon the land, especially were they great artificers in metal, stone and wood. These were to be supplied for Solomon, King of Judea, and now the foundations were begun, the timbers were felled and hewn in the mountains of Lebanon, the stone was taken from the quarries between Succoth and Zeredathah, and hewn and fitted for their respective places, and the mighty work proceeded, a great force of workmen from the bearers of burthens, the craftsmen, to the masters and overseers of the 80,000 of the first, 90,000 of the second and 3,300 of the masters, looking upon this vast concourse of workmen employed and being fully aware of the great reputation the building was gaining throughout the known world, the three principals, Solomon of Israel, Hiram of Tyre, and the Tyrean Hiram Abibal, agreeing to establish a token by which every faithful workman upon the Temple might make himself known as such, for right well did these three great men know the building of the Temple had already created an impetus in building of great edifices and that these workmen would be in demand, so it was given out that each and every workman, on the building who should be faithful to the completion of the Temple, should under certain conditions receive this word or token, and here my friends our traditions tell us Masonry began. These traditions vague as they were have become the source from which the beautiful moral Temple of modern times has been erected, stone by stone, as they have been found worthy and fitting some place in our spiritual building, much that is beautiful has been added to this crude material of the traditions, until a brotherhood of nine hundred thousand good and true men are enrolled under our banner, of the common Fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man, first it came from Asia and spread over Europe; in that continent it has had its greatest trials, it has not only had to combat the ravages of time, the cruel waste of war, but that most terrible conflict waged by a fierce, selfish and merciless religious bigot-

ry ; through all this it has come unscathed and indeed brightened and purified, hiding away sometimes in caves and holding their meetings, they carried their GREAT LIGHT always to some safe place where God's own Book revealing His will, His mercy, His infinite love of the children of men in which Masons everywhere believe and which if true Masons, they accept as a guide for their faith, and rule for their practice, the Holy Bible, and when the Papal Church seemed determined to destroy it from the Earth except as in its hands, and piles and piles of the precious Book had been burned in every town, city and hamlet, the Mason while he lamented the black blasphemy secretly rejoiced that there were volumes of the old blessed Bible which the flames of Papal hate would never reach, for every Masonic Lodge extant had a copy in their safe keeping from which it might be restored to the world ten thousand fold of increase.

Now in the blaze of our matchless civilization this day we celebrate, wherever the feet of civilization has trod, Masons are assembled commemorating the virtues of this great man, stern and fearless rebuker of sin and evil, all our Lodges are erected to God and dedicated to the memories of the Holy St. John, St. John the Baptist on the 24th of June and St. John the Evangelist on the 27th of December. Just here we will find it profitable to consider the characters of these two wonderful men.

The Baptist was a stern son of the wilderness, a graduate of God's great special school, we see him as a man wedded to virtue and good, and with a sublime, undaunted courage, rebuking sin even in the King's own court and denouncing the viperous sins of the people. The Evangelist leaned in the sweet affection of his nature on his Master's bosom and in all his writings and work is the very impersonation of gentle, pure love. Yet these two men so widely different in their natures and qualities could be in harmony and peace, in the same work and sphere. How beautifully ! My Brethren, it teaches

us to dwell and work in peace and harmony in our Lodges and in all our affairs of life, would that we had some John the Baptist to rebuke sin and corruption in high places of government and society in this our day. Now, doubtless some are saying, tell us what is Masonry and its use? I am now led to that very point. What is Masonry? and I will answer it first by showing what it is not.

Masonry is not Religion. Man cannot be saved by Masonry. There is but one name given under Heaven whereby man can be saved, nor is Masonry a substitute for Religion, and the brother who so far mistakes its mission as to place his trust in it for that great purpose makes a fatal mistake.

Masonry knows no creed, but the simple creed of belief in God and His Holy Word and an honest effort to be guided by it in doing the will of Him whom, it reveals, the narrow bonds of creed are banished without our walls, no wrangling or disputation in this line can enter our Lodge room, and violate our peace and harmony, nor can any man who does not believe in the true and living God be a recipient of our degrees or enter the doors of our Lodges. We teach in beautiful ritual and symbols the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man. We revere and respect the Church of God and His plan for the eternal salvation of men. Masonry is glad to assist in the great work.

Masonry is not nor can be a political institution. No political discussion can be entered into within the sacred precincts. Masonry includes all men in the great Brotherhood, each with his sovereign right to his thought and opinion of government and its proper administration. A Mason, all Masons, are required to be good citizens, true and loyal to the government under which they live, a lover of peace, good order and a law-abiding man. No, Masonry is not a political society nor indeed can be.

Masonry is not a Reformatory Association except in so far as it may reform society by the character and life it pre

sents to those in the midst, with whom it dwells.

No drunkard, no lascivious man, no man regardless of society, its purity, and its truth and honor, no athiest can enter her portals, no vulgar, profane man should be countenanced within a Lodge of Masons. None of these, or others which would naturally come under the ban, should be admitted to Masonry with the hope of reformation. Let me illustrate, suppose the stones from the quarries just as they came from the blast or the splitting wedge, were placed in the walls of the Temple with all their irregularities, projections and cavities, how could the building have been overlaid with the burnished gold which in all its beauty, reflecting the light of the sun so brilliantly as to cause the Queen of Sheba to shade her eyes and exclaim, "Oh, King! the half has not been told me," referring doubtless to the many descriptions of the beauty of the building she had had, which had not revealed one half the real beauty, the symbolism of the regular and even walls being overlaid with burnished gold, is a perfect character, smoothed and finished and ready for the Master's use in the Building not made with hands Eternal in the Heavens.

If Masonry is none of these; if it is not Religion or a substitute for it; if it is not Political, nor Reformatory, what is it? Masonry is a magnificent system of moral science veiled in a beautiful allegory illustrated by beautiful symbols simple and natural, easily explained and quickly comprehended. It teaches man first his dependence upon one who is stronger and mightier than himself and points him at once toward God, it makes the pathway the way of prayer, it requires the profession of trust in God and thus equipped the neophytes are led from darkness to light, lessons of purity, firmness and moral courage are impressed and enforced under the most forceful and expressive circumstances and conditions, so that these are unmovable, but remain as a constant prick to consciousness, arrests the commission of evil and inciting to good. Such is Masonry, is it a wonder it has withstood the waste of

time, the ravages of war and pestilence and the fierce fires of a religious bigotry? It fitted and took its place in the civilization of the Temple age, and it just as smoothly and perfectly fits the civilization of to-day; and for the reason that the true and living God is its center, and the Bible the Eternal Word of God is its foundation.

Writing of the address, he said: "I prayed just before I went to the stand. Oh, Lord, my Heavenly Father, bless me to-day and help me to honor Thee and bless my fellow-men, give me thoughts from out of Thy store and words to express them, that I may do some good this day, and I went forth upon the strength of my belief that he would help me."

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

THE M. W. GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA, F. & A. M. }
OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY,
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., January 15, 1894. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Florida:

*BRETHREN—On this the first occasion of rendering a report of my Stewardship as your Grand Secretary, I feel very sensibly my inefficiency for so important a work as is the basis of my report. I feel also that I have the right to claim your clemency and indulgence as it is my first effort at the work.

I cannot tell you how often I have felt the need of some experienced brother near me whom I might consult and often have been, as though about to ask him who *had gone* forever, how is this and this managed?

Realizing the duty and responsibility upon me, I have gone forward in its discharge, looking to the Mason's God for guidance and wisdom to do my duty well.

My correspondence has been large, laborious and responsible, but, it has afforded me an intercourse with the Craft at once full of pleasure and Fraternal profit, and here I am very much gratified to state that the secretaries of the particular Lodges have been prompt, kind and courteous, exemplifying the beauty of our system of Fraternity in official work, and by it have enabled me to execute mine with more ease and gratifying results, for which I return them thanks.

Another cause of pleasure has been an examination of the proceedings of the Jurisdictions with whom we are in Fraternal correspondence, and that means the world. I have been keenly touched at the Fraternal sympathy which seems to flow as a stream of limpid water gushing and glad in its course—sympathy in our afflictions and in our joys and successes. The kind gentle words expressed anent our dead have been beautiful and could have come from no heart but one filled with Fraternal love. Especially, has this been the case in reference to our beloved Brother Dawkins. I

*For full report see printed proceedings of 1894.

now know how our brother was held by the Craft the world over, and that the foot of civilization has not trodden where his memory is not cherished and embalmed in the hearts of some.

Our brethren have been in full sympathy with us in our rejoicings over the fact that at last we have a permanent Home, and strong expressions of joy and sympathy come on all sides from Fraternal hearts and tongues.

Throughout the Craft in every Jurisdiction peace and harmony seem to prevail, and to look upon it as one sees it in looking over the vast field of correspondence, it is a delight, a subject of happy meditation and thought and clearly indicates the fact that teaching the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man, leads our race towards Him whence we sprang into existence, and that man is moving toward the God who made him and in whose likeness he was created.

I rejoice with our Grand Master in the peace and harmony which pervades our own Jurisdiction, and more at the growing enthusiasm existing in all Lodges and parts of our Jurisdiction. The prompt remittance of dues, the fact that several Lodges have come up with two years' dues in full and write of their intent to put new zeal into their work and new life into their Lodge is an illustration of the spirit that is abroad in the Fraternity.

In closing permit me to congratulate the Brethren upon the auspicious circumstances under which we assemble, and the hearty wish that we may have a good and prosperous meeting and advance the interest of our Fraternity.

A. J. RUSSELL,
Grand Secretary.

OCALA, FLA., December 7, 1896.

Mrs. A. J. Russell, Jacksonville, Fla.:

DEAR MADAM—At the request of Brother J. H. Livingston, W. M. of Marion Lodge No. 19, F. & A. M., I enclose you a copy of the minutes taken from our record book January 31, 1895, on which occasion the dedication services of our new Masonic Hall were held.

On that occasion the representatives of the several Masonic Lodges and the public in general was treated to the best and most instructive and impressive Masonic address that was ever delivered in this city. Brother A. J. Russell was the orator of the day and his visit on that occasion will never be forgotten by those who heard him.

His memory will ever live in the hearts of the Masons of Ocala, who, every one of them, always loved him dearly.

Believe me Dear Madam to be Fraternally,

L. A. HENDON,

Secretary Jno. F. Dunn Lodge No. 82, F. & A. M.

Copy of the minutes of John F. Dunn Lodge No. 82, F. & A. M., Ocala, Fla., Jan. 31, 1895.:

“This day having been appointed for the dedication of the new

Masonic Hall, the members of this Lodge and visiting brethren of Masonic Lodge No. 19, Friendship Lodge No. 53, Citra Lodge No. 39, Marston Lodge No. 49, Anthony Lodge No. 87, Micanopy Lodge No. 29, Dunnellon Lodge No. 136, Morning Star Lodge No. 92, and other Lodges, together with a number of ladies and gentlemen from Ocala and vicinity, assembled themselves at Masonic Hall at 3 o'clock p. m., to participate in and witness the ceremonies.

W. Brother H. H. Schwerin P. M. bearing the great lights. The M. W. Grand Lodge performed the solemn and impressive ceremonies of dedication in accordance with the ancient rights and usages of Masonry, after which R. W., A. J. Russell, P. G. M. and Grand Secretary, delivered a lengthy and most instructive oration on the Origin, Antiquity and Benefits of Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge then withdrew and the audience adjourned.

H. H. SCHWERIN, as Grand Secretary.

* "After I had traced God's plan of our civilization in the call of Abraham, to raise a stock, from which He would build a nation, who should illustrate the central idea of it, a living active God invisible to man's physical eye, but always present in human activities, and when I reached its climax on Mt. Moriah in the completed Temple of God, I invited my audience to step with me over Israel's decline, from the summit of Moriah to the crown of Calvary. It did seem to me as though God was speaking through me."

COCOA, FLA., November A. D., 1894, A. L. 5894.

A special session of the M. W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., by order of the M. W. Grand Master, was opened in due form, there being present four Lodges representing this Jurisdiction. Brevard Lodge 115, Indian River 90, Melbourne 143, and Pineland Lodge No. 86. Past Grand Master Albert J. Russell having been deputed for the occasion presided.

The Grand Lodge being opened in a room adjoining the new Lodge room, and a procession formed, proceeded to the new hall, being the Lodge room of Brevard Lodge No. 115, and were received by the Lodge with the public grand honors, after which the acting Grand Master, M. W., Albert J. Russell, proceeded to dedicate the hall in due and ancient form, to Masonic uses and purposes by Brevard Lodge. After the dedicatory ceremonies were concluded, the acting Grand Master, Brother Albert J. Russell, delivered an interesting and instructive address, not alone instructive to the Masonic Fraternity, but also to a large audience composed of ladies and gentlemen of the whole surrounding country, by whom the discourse of our Past Grand Master was listened to with the greatest interest, and it is confidently believed that much good was accomplished.

* (Writing of this occasion, he said :)

There being no further business before the Grand Lodge, the procession was re-formed and returned to the room below and was closed in due and ancient form.

JOSEPH MENDELL, Acting as Grand Secretary.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Paterson :

*Were I called upon to adorn some pure and lovely woman with jewels rare and beautiful, my cup would be filled with exquisite pleasure, and a sense of being highly honored in the privilege of discharging so pleasant a duty. But I am called upon this morning in behalf of our M. W. Grand Lodge to perform a duty scarcely less pleasant than that already alluded to, to adorn the person of a beloved son with a rich jewel, expressive of her appreciation of his faithful service rendered her and the Craft over whom she presides, and her commendation of his work complete and delivered.

In performing this duty, I feel in my heart that I am presenting this beautiful jewel to a man, a Mason, a brother whose integrity is invulnerable, whose honor is as the apple of his eye to him, and whose character for purity stands spotless before his fellow-men and his brethren. Take this jewel, my brother, and let the incorruptible character of the pure metal of which it is made incite you, through whatever period of life the Grand Master of all may yet allot you, to maintain your integrity and purity spotless and clean.

JUNE 23, A. L. 5895.

To the M. W. Wm. Forsyth, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Florida :

Having received authority from you to lay the corner-stone and dedicate the new Masonic hall, a building recently erected by the brethren of Barrett Lodge F. & A. M., and for the use of said Lodge at Live Oak, would respectfully report as follows : On the 23d day of June (the 24th falling on Sunday,) I, armed with your authority and dispensation, proceeded to Live Oak, where I found in addition to the membership of that particular Lodge, a large number of visiting brethren from other Lodges and also a large crowd of persons, ladies and gentlemen, eager to witness the impressive ceremonies.

Past Grand Masters Russell and Paterson were also there to assist us in the discharge of duties assigned us. The Grand Lodge was opened with the Grand Secretary at his post, and of course made a minute of the proceedings for the benefit of the Grand Lodge and will doubtless make an official report. The ceremonies of laying the corner-stone were performed by myself in the presence of a very large crowd of people who seemed greatly interested and there were a goodly number of Masons who had never before witnessed such ceremonies.

It was our intention to have P. G. M. Russell deliver his address from the porch of the building, but unfortunately a heavy shower of rain came

* January 1864, Major Russell was requested to formerly present a jewel.

up about the time, and as many as could get into the lower hall of the building were crowded into it, although a large hall, not half the people were accommodated, but it was there, on an improvised stage, Brother Russell for about two hours, entertained the large audience by delivering one of the most eloquent and masterly Masonic addresses and perhaps the best of his life. After his address the crowd was invited to partake of a magnificent repast and just such a dinner as the people of Suwannee have been famous for providing. Dinner over the Lodge room was thrown open to the public generally to witness the beautiful ceremonies of dedicating the hall performed by Past Grand Master Angus Paterson.

All of which is respectfully and Fraternally submitted.

HENRY J. STEWART, Past Grand Master.

*SECRETARY'S REPORT.

JACKSONVILLE, January 14, 1895.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Florida, F. & A. M.:

M. W. GRAND MASTER AND BROTHERS—It is my great pleasure to report the condition of our beloved Fraternity as excellent. Its growth surely and healthily advancing, while a high type of true Fraternal spirit pervades in all our Lodges, and a marked improvement is seen and felt in every department of Lodge work, especially in correct and prompt returns to this office. The correspondence of the office is on the increase from year to year, which so confines the secretary to his office that it becomes difficult to engage in the delightful work of visiting the Lodges and talking with the brethren in reference to the good mission of our time-honored association.

Our correspondence reveals a most pleasant experience in the Fraternal relations and amenities which exist among the Craft wherever established, the world over, and any communication has followed, Fraternal love and sympathy abounds and great harmony and peace prevails, the assaults of a fierce religious bigotry are passed unnoticed, while we pursue our even way of human brotherhood under the common Fatherhood of God, in whom we have an abiding trust.

BARTOW, FLA., Jan. 17, 1896.

Mrs. A. J. Russell, Jacksonville:

You have my sincerest sympathies in your afflicted bereavement.

JAMES W. BOYD, Grand Master.

JANUARY 21, 1896.

†BRETHREN: The Sixty-seventh Annual Communication is ushered in with gloom and sadness. The grim archer, Death,

*Further report found on pages 35, 38, 77 and 83, in proceedings of Grand Lodge for 1895.

†The portion of the Grand Master's address referring to the Grand Secretary.

aimed his shaft at a shining mark and claimed for his victim the gifted, the brilliant, the eloquent man and Mason. Upon the very threshold of our meeting the funeral bell rings the sad requiem, and we are summoned on this afternoon to consign to Mother Earth all that is mortal of M. W. Past Grand Master Albert J. Russell, and as a Grand Lodge, pay in the most fitting manner, that tribute which is due to the memory of one so conspicuously prominent in the history and councils of this Grand Lodge.

In the midst of his labors as Grand Secretary, preparing the work for this session, he was stricken, and after a brief period in which no serious apprehension was felt, he sunk rapidly for several days, when the disease seemed stayed. Thereafter hope and fear held equal sway, until on the morning of the 17th inst., when the summons came suddenly and his spirit passed into the realms to mortals unknown, where we can confidently trust that the "trestle board" of his life's work will secure him an abundant entrance into the Eternal Grand Lodge above.

No public man of the State was more widely or favorably known than Albert J. Russell; few are they who have not been enraptured with his eloquence. As an orator he was ever in demand, until in every city and hamlet his name had become a household word.

He was earnest and zealous in every cause espoused by him. The Grand Lodge has lost one of its best members and a faithful official; Masonry an earnest advocate; humanity a warm sympathizer; the church an expounder of that truest religion which feeds the hungry, soothes the afflicted and extends a helping hand to the unfortunate. His bride of a few weeks is bereft of a kind, loving and devoted husband, and our hearts go out to her with the tenderest sympathies.

Knowing that my time was always preoccupied, and though the task was arduous, he was ever ready and willing to aid me, even with laborious research. His ripe judgment and

wise counsel were always at my command ; his sustaining hand and gentle words of encouragement gave me confidence in guiding the Masonic craft through channels, to me, new and untried. Our relations and Masonic intercourse were the most cordial and agreeable ; my personal attraction for him had grown strong, and I looked forward with infinite pleasure, to meeting him at this session. He, too, looked forward to this annual session with the keenest anticipations of pleasure in the greeting and clasping the hands of his brethren ; but alas ! the meeting !

Upon being apprised of Brother Russell's critical condition and inability to discharge, or even direct, the duties of his office, upon the advice and request of Mrs. Russell, I, on the 9th inst., appointed Brother Wilber P. Webster as Assistant Grand Secretary.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 12, 5896.

At the regular Communication of Washington Lodge No. 5 A.F.M. held February 13th 5896 the Worshipful Master conveyed to the Lodge the sad tidings of the death of our late Brother Past Master and Life Member, Albert J. Russell.

While there are but few of the Craft now living who had the pleasure to know him personally, yet his name is familiar to many of us for the noble greatness he possessed.

In 1859 Brother Albert J. Russell, removed from Charleston, S. C., to cast his lot in our neighboring State of Florida.

His courteous manner, devotion to Masonry, and the brilliant mind that he possessed so endeared himself to the Craft that they in their wisdom saw fit to elevate him to the most distinguished position in their gift, namely, to that of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. M. of the State of Florida, in which position he discharged his duty with dignity, zeal and fidelity to the Craft over which he had the honor to preside.

Again he was honored with the responsible position of Grand Secretary of A. F. M. of his adopted State and faithfully served until he was called to that Celestial Lodge above from whence no traveler returns.

While his Mother Lodge felt proud over her distinguished son in life, so do we now partake in the sorrow of his death.

In the prime of manhood and useful pursuits of life he was cut down like a flower when plucked by a tender hand to wither and die. As we

bow in submission to the will of the Great Architect of the Universe, we here express our sympathy to the bereaved widow in her affliction and pray that our Heavenly Father will guide in her lonely path, soothe in sorrow, comfort in grief and wipe from her cheeks the falling tears. Be it then

Resolved, That in the death of Past Master Albert J. Russell, Washington Lodge No. 5 A. F. M. has lost a distinguished son and the Craft an honored brother, and the community in which he lived, an esteemed citizen.

Resolved, That the above Preamble and Resolutions be inscribed in our minutes and a blank page be dedicated to his memory.

Resolved, That a copy of the above Preamble and Resolutions be sent to the widow of our deceased brother and one to Duval Lodge, Jacksonville, Florida, of which he also was a member.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee.

J. BERKMAN,

Secretary Washington Lodge No. 5 A. F. M.

*The feeling of oneness and fellowship is intensified to-day by the great sorrow which rests upon us, fresh from the burial of our beloved brother, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Russell. The grief over his loss is personal to us all. I have known him well for a quarter of a century; the better I knew him the more I was drawn toward him. He was always and everywhere an embodiment of Masonic character; courageous yet gentle; plain and outspoken in every cause that claimed his services; yet without bitterness, or the spirit of partisanship; he was a manly true man. Whether on the battle field in our late war, or in public office at the head of our school system; in the daily life of a good citizen he was one of those for whose life the world is better, and in whose loss no pageant of the dead is needed to voice a common sorrow. By profession a builder, he builded his own life on the plan which the Great Architect had placed upon the trestle board.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Florida :

Your Committee on Memorials, to which was assigned

*Extract from an oration delivered at the Grand Lodge in 1896, by Grand Orator Weller.

that part of the Grand Master's address, relating to the dead, respectfully and fraternally submit the following:

WHEREAS, This Grand Lodge is plunged into most profound grief by the sad tidings of the death of our beloved Grand Secretary, Past Grand Master Albert J. Russell, and by having performed the last sad rites of sepulture according to Masonic form and usage; and

WHEREAS, No more painful blow has befallen Masonry in Florida in recent years; taking from the Fraternity an exemplar; from the Grand Lodge a Grand Master indeed, strong, true and wise; from the Craft a brother; from humanity a valued and trusted leader; from Christianity a consecrated disciple; from the State a safe counsellor and conscientious educator; from his country a patriotic son; and

WHEREAS, The data at your committee's command be not sufficient to enable them to prepare a full and satisfactory memoir and feeling that the life of our beloved dead was so rich in Masonic beauty, truth and fellowship, and believing that the tribute of the love and affection of the Masons of Florida should be ample and full—full as the love and the light was in the life of our beloved dead, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Grand Master appoint a special committee to prepare and publish a suitable, full and permanent memoir of our deceased brother, Grand Secretary, incorporating the same in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, thus putting it on record, and furnish the bereaved wife a copy of the memoir.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. MALPHUS,	R. N. ANDREWS,
R. F. ROGERS,	J. M. CALDWELL,
B. R. WILSON,	Committee.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Albert J. Russell was born in Petersburg, Virginia, January 15, 1831. His parents died when he was quite young,

and from the best information we can obtain a portion of his minority was spent in Philadelphia.

At the beginning of the late war, we find him in Florida where he adopted the cause of the Confederates, and with his usual determination in all matters in which he was engaged, entered heartily into the conflict, and served with distinction in every position where he was placed. At the close of the war he returned to Jacksonville, and commenced the business of architect and builder, and continued in that business until 1877, when he was elected County Superintendent of Schools and held the position seven years with such marked success that in 1884 Governor Bloxham appointed him State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Here he came to the front as an educator, and with his usual energy entered heartily into the work, making improvements in the school system, and introducing reforms in all cases where necessity required.

The school at St. Augustine for the benefit of the Deaf and Dumb will always remain a monument to his zeal and energy in the cause of education. During the nine years that he held the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he became known to nearly all the teachers and pupils throughout the State, and his powers of eloquence were such that, after he had retired from that office, he was always sought for to address both teachers and pupils at conventions and commencement exercises.

*As a Mason we cannot find any record of his former history. The records and lodge-books containing the Masonic history of all the members of Solomon Lodge No. 20, and Duval Lodge No. 18, were destroyed by fire a few years ago, and every vestige of his Masonic record lost; therefore we will have to supply what we can from memory.

He was one of the petitioners for a dispensation to form a

*Since prepared resolutions have been received from Charleston, S. C.

Lodge which afterwards became Duval Lodge No. 18, and when the charter was granted, Franklin A. Branch was named Worshipful Master, Morris A. Dzialynski, Senior Warden, and John Campbell, Junior Warden. At the first election of officers of the Lodge, held on the third Monday of December, 1869, Brother Russell was elected Worshipful Master, and re-elected in the following years 1870, 1871 and 1872. In February, 1870, he was elected Deputy Grand Master and refused a re-election when the Grand Lodge passed the order that the Deputy Grand Master could not be the active Master of a Lodge.

In 1873, 1874 and 1875, he held the highest office in the gift of this Grand Lodge, and it was during his term of office *in 1875 that the Convention was called at Monticello to formulate a system of work and present it to the Grand Lodge at its meeting in 1875.*

At that Convention he was in a position to control the action of the meeting, but he allowed the freest expression of opinion, and the most reasonable arguments prevailed. The work agreed upon at that Convention was adopted with very little change at the meeting of the Grand Lodge at Tallahassee in 1875, and our Most Worshipful Brother was re-elected for the third term *without opposition.*

During the last three years he has served this Grand Lodge as Grand Secretary, and that his labors have been appreciated is evidenced by the universal sorrow and regret at his decease.

In the church and Sunday school he also took front rank. He was Superintendent of the Sunday school for eighteen years, till after Governor Bloxham called him to Tallahassee to fill the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

He was twice married in Florida. First to the widow Roberts, a sister of Mrs. W. H. Lucas of this city, and her mother was Mrs. Collins, a respected widow lady, now residing with Mrs. Lucas.

Mrs. Russell passed away August 9, 1894, and in October last he married Miss Abbie M. Baker, a most estimable lady, who survives him.

We regret that we cannot give a more extensive memoir, but we have met with the same difficulty which your Committee on Memorials had to contend with, viz: entire absence of data from which to formulate a report; but Brother Russell needs no eulogy from us. His work, while in the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be a lasting monument to his memory, and the results of his labor while in that office will continue a blessing to humanity during all future ages.

Fraternally submitted,

W. A. McLEAN,
ENOS WASGATE, } Committee.
MARCUS ENDEL, }

KEY WEST, FLA., February 28, 1896.

MRS. ALBERT J. RUSSELL—"Dr. Felix Varela" Lodge possessed of the most heart-felt sorrow for the death of your husband and our friend and Brother Albert J. Russell, we extend this letter of condolence for such bereavement, sending you our expression of sympathy.

This Lodge fervently prays to the Supreme Being that He will give you fortitude to bear your great sorrow.

Respectfully yours,

JUAN S. NAVAM, Secretary.

HALL OF HALIFAX LODGE No. 81, F. & A. M.,
DAYTONA, FLA., Feb. 15, 1896. }

At a regular communication of this Lodge the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, Almighty God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, has removed from our midst our respected and beloved Brother A. J. Russell, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Florida, be it

Resolved, That we deeply deplore his loss to the Fraternity, and tender our sincerest sympathy to the widow of our beloved brother.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Grand Lodge and to the widow of our deceased brother and the same spread upon the minutes of the Lodge.

GEO. P. BOLOUGH,
S. W. BARTLETT, } Committee.
S. H. GOVE.
GEO. H. CLARK, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

WHEREAS, Gainesville Lodge No. 41, F. & A. M. has heard with feelings of profound sorrow of the death of P. G. M. Brother A. J. Russell. Therefore be it

Resolved, by Gainesville Lodge No. 41, F. & A. M. that in the death of Brother Russell, in the midst of a career that was yearly lifting him round by round, upon the ladder of fame, constantly increasing his legion of friends and widening and broadening his sphere of usefulness, with every reason to look to the past with pride and satisfaction, and to the future with confidence and courage, fallen by the *wayside like the mighty oak of the forest shivered by the lightning's flash*; that we have lost a loving friend and faithful ally.

That it is fitting that we should take note of his departure and that we should emulate his virtues, enshrine his good deeds in our memory, and extend our sympathies to his relatives and friends who have been left to moan his loss.

We would say that while the Supreme Master of the Universe, whose unfailing wisdom and boundless love are often hidden by clouds that have a golden lining, has in His infinite wisdom called Brother Russell from labor to refreshment, we should remember that "Death the grim destroyer ever loves a shining mark," an ample justification of the truth of this axiom is found in the case of Brother Russell.

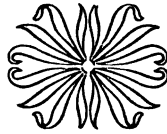
No more worthy man belonged to Masonry. The story of what he did for Masonry will form a bright chapter in our common history and be cherished many years after the most of his fellow craftsmen are lost within the shades of the past.

To his bereaved widow, family and friends, we would say "God's finger touched him and he sleeps." Therefore submit to his will and look to Him for consolation for "He doeth all things well."

He is dead, but his work is bequeathed to us as a priceless legacy for the future.

That as a fitting tribute we have ascribed a page in our minutes sacred to his memory and tendered a copy of these resolutions to his bereaved widow.

EVANS HAILE,
J. H. EWELL,
J. R. EDDINS. } Committee,



CHAPTER XIX.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

"I have always prayed that I might be permitted to work hard in whatever field Providence might cast my lot, and then when my work was finished, let me lay down, at once, in the embrace of mother earth, until called up again to enter upon the great activities of Eternity. I am best and most when I am bearing all I can bear, and Oh! God often steps in and makes it light and easy; but does not remove the load. Ask our Father in Heaven to bless me, to help me to consecrate my whole being to Him and the blessing of my fellowmen, the balance of my life, to take out of me all worldly ambition, save to accomplish these two things.

I am in the hands of My Father God, and whatever he indicates for me, as His will to do or suffer, I am ready, by His Grace. Lift up your hand of faith to our Father and place it in His hand, Don't take His in yours, but place yours in His. I repeat, then you can say 'God leadeth me by His own Hand.'

Then ask Him to wash me in the shed blood of Christ and perfectly cleanse me. Oh! that we may be led that way all our lives, you must not overrate my qualities, while I have an unquestioning faith and trust in God and my Saviour, you know I wear the weak flesh yet and I have to repent and go to Him and confess my faults and pray Him to forgive me and then—blessed be His Holy Name—I draw sweetness out of bitterness and joy out of penitence.

To experience the touch of God's finger of love upon one's heart through the influence of the Holy Spirit is joy and peace supreme, sometimes when I am bowed down. When I feel I have not done right I go to God with it and then throw my

whole heart wide open to Him and He says to me through His Word, go my child, do so no more. I am so happy I can scarcely contain myself. "Blessed assurance," yet, I fear you rank my goodness as a Christian man too high, I am but a poor halting, stumbling child of God. Oh! how often I have to go to Him and beg that He will forgive me: but I love Him and His Church and His people, His service and my fellow men. I am never happier than when I am in My Father's House and when I am doing something for my fellow men—I am constantly, as I sit and write—as I enter God's Church, as I worship Him, praying and begging my Father in Heaven to help me consecrate myself wholly to Him, to turn away from all folly and sin unto Him.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1895.

Yesterday I had a very refreshing Sabbath, my spirit was all mellowed and sweetly softened and brought *en rapport* with God's spirit and what better equipment can a man or woman have than this for the conflicts of life, for duty for privilege or responsibility. Turn to Hebrews, vii chap., 25 verse and read the text, you should rejoice that our Dear Saviour suffered and died for our sins.

You ask me what part of the Bible I am reading now. Let me tell you, were the Bible precious Book destroyed out of the world, I have it almost in my brain and on my heart. I quote from any part of it at will and now I select just what parts as fit my condition of spirit and circumstances and read and ponder, just now I am preferring the Prophet Isaiah as he so beautifully and wonderfully talks of the coming of the Prince of Peace one can read it until he is ready to outstretch his arms to embrace the Messiah.

God's Holy word is full of the richest gems of love, mercy and Providential care, precious Book, how many of the sons and daughters of men it has encouraged, strengthened and saved; God bless our dear old Bible. I love the sunshine, the light, one of the thousands of precious passages in God's book,

I love to think about, one that seems to give me sweet pleasure is the fifth verse of the last chapter of Revelation, "And there shall be no night there," Oh! what a Salvation a Redemption has been prepared for us poor sinful children of men. God grant that we may avail ourselves of it and live for Him who has done so much for us. Our God and Father overrules us, we are in His blessed hands and let us trust Him with our souls and rest right there, then we may happily and sweetly sing, "All is well, all is well with my soul."

OCTOBER 9, 1895.

Oh! the cost of saving an immortal soul, but we should rejoice that our dear Saviour suffered and died for our sins and to save us he went into the dark cold tomb; but blessed be God he burst the bonds of the grave and came forth.

He ascended to His Heavenly Home and sits at the Right Hand of God, the Father and is our ever High Priest making intercession for us, Glory be to God the Father, the Blessed Son and Holy Spirit.

I am an humble man and give God the Glory for all that I am or may be. I have to write or speak as the afflatus comes upon me. It is that which has won me a name as a speaker and a lecturer, and I have always thought that I fled my duty that I did not take up the cross and preach the unsearchable riches of the Gospel of the Son of God. I never make a public speech without trying to honor God and bless my fellow men.

I love the woods and rural districts; I absolutely delight in them; I have spent many a happy hour wandering through the ever-changing aisles of the forest. It seems to me that when I am in the midst of Nature's majesty, her everlasting hills, her beautiful and peaceful valleys, her streams, that my soul gets nearer to its God, and in child-like spirit says to me, "Our God made all this; let us worship Him."

Standing with a few teachers, from the National Educational Association (1887) in the valley of the Yellowstone Riv-

er, in Yellowstone Park, between the stupendous walls of solid stone, I said, "Let us name this spot," and they said "What shall we name it?" and I said, "I would call it Earth's great vestibule to the courts of Heaven," for who can stand here and gaze upon this and not feel that he is in the presence of the Almighty through His wondrous works.

MARCH 5, 1895.

I had a glorious, bright, shining day on Sunday and enjoyed my church privileges, especially as I knelt at the Lord's table and prayed, as I took the bread, that it might prove the bread of life to my soul, as it represented the broken body of the Lord, broken for unworthy me, and as I took the wine, I might be washed in the shed blood of Christ, as it represented, and be made clean, whole and pure, and so all through the day I was helped physically and spiritually.

MAY 5, 1895.

"Communion day as I contemplated it, I prayed, 'Oh! blessed Saviour, if I am not fit to be at Thy table, keep me back; impress me not to go.' But my soul cried out within me, 'I want to own the blessed Saviour; I want to confess Thee before the world. I want to be Thine; accept me.'

And as I knelt before the chancel rail, peace, sweet peace was mine. My soul cried out, 'Help me, oh my God, to honor Thee by my life, even to the end, and bless by my life my fellow-men.'

I knelt repentantly, but full of trust, at His altar, and received the bread and wine, precious representatives of His suffering and death for us, and rose an humble, but happier man. I absolutely take delight in my church service; it is, indeed, soul food for me, and my meditation is sweet. The music was beautiful. There were songs from among the old-time hymns, such as were sung when the Evangelistical churches were taking this great country for God. Oh, the blessed Sabbath and its priceless privileges!

I have always been in the habit of bowing my head upon being seated as I enter the church, and sending up a short prayer for God's blessing and forgiveness. I always feel better after I have prayed, and better fitted for the service. How it does help the poor, tired body if the spirit is happy under the influence of grace.

In saying you "look to God daily for help in your work," it tells me that you are drawing upon one whose resources are as boundless as the universe and whose powers are greater than all forces combined, and whose great heart is made up of infinite love. Stay there, and all the powers of earth and hell cannot overcome you, and you will win, if God has to win for you. I asked God, who is all power, all riches, all pity, all love, to bless you. I told Him that I had told you to trust in the midst of your trouble, that He would succor and sustain, and asked Him to make my assurance good, and I have never doubted.

Say to your friend that "I earnestly pray that Our Heavenly Father through His Blessed Spirit, the Great Comforter, may minister to her grief and give her the only real consolation which can be given in such grief, and may she be strengthened and upheld by God's own Almighty power."

I am so glad of your experience with the poor old lady, and of your acts of kindness to her; and of the prompt returns in the soul happiness you enjoyed. Ah! these are the jewels which are to coruscate in our crowns by and by. These are they only, worth the living for. Seeds of joy and happiness planted in the heart, which will bloom eternally. May God reveal Himself to her as her Saviour, and open the pearly gates to her faith.

"I have just spent a half hour with my geraniums, twenty-three in number, so fresh and blooming. Some of them I had ventured to leave out for a night's air, that they might turn their petals to kiss the Sunday's sun.

"I think that they are sweet messages from Our Father,

and to me sometimes, when I feel my cares and conflicts with the world are more than I can bear, they almost speak to me and say, 'Behold how your Father in Heaven cares for me. And will He not care for you whom He has made in His own image? Do not doubt, but go forward.' And I am blessed in my contemplation of them.

"This to the hard, stern man of the world would look weak ; but to me, it is rich, true philosophy, true science ; it is glorious faith that lifts us Heavenward and up to glory.

"Yes, I can almost fancy they are looking up and smiling me a welcome. What a precious gift from Our Heavenly Father are the beautiful flowers, tinted in every hue by the Divine Artist, and sweet with fragrance from Heaven.

"How many beautiful lessons they teach the thoughtful mind! When trodden upon they emit more strongly their sweet fragrance. To live, some of them all hidden and overgrown by stronger plants, yet bloom and send forth their sweetness unseen and unsung, as the sweet violet, the humblest of all the flowers, often blooming beneath the larger exogenous, unseen ; but when plucked and held to the light and warmth of the sun, exhibit the most quieting and delicate of all tints, and emitting in exhaustless generosity the sweetest perfume."

Let us make our little home a blessed home, because God His Son, and Blessed Spirit are to be our guests and abide with us, let us resolve by the grace of God, to crowd all we can into our lives from now on, to be just as happy as we can be, both from the human side and from the God side.

Our little home will be a happy home ; we will be joined in God in His worship and will lift our hearts and talk with Him like little children and I am assured from His blessed promises that He will place His benedictive hand upon our heads and hearts and bless us.

What makes home? That which is within it, with God as our permanent guest, that is home, sweet home, Heav-

only home. In the shades of the tree of Life hard by the banks of the Crystal River, which proceeds out of the throne of God, we will talk of the wondrous Providence and Love of Him who hath brought us through. Blessed be the name of our God and Father.

"Let our God be praised by all the people for the institution of the Sabbath, the establishment of His Church in the world and for the living ministry. God intends the Sabbath, one seventh of the human life, for rest, and to go to His House and sit and listen to the story of his wondrous love to men and sweetly meditate, is the most blessed rest given to man. The House of God is to me a place of sweet repose and sacred rest, of meditation and reflection most profitable, from which I come as a little child, which state of mind and soul is man's loftiest and yet safest attitude.

Most beautiful clear, sun-shiny, peaceful day, so typical of the Eternal Sabbath, when we can rest 'neath the shades of the Tree of Life hard by the Crystal river which flows from the throne of God. Oh, Blessed Saviour, grant us a place there, through Thy shed Blood !"

"I have always felt that the love of a true mother is second only to the infinite love of God, and of course when the children she watched and nursed and so often prayed over are taken, it must be a terrible grief. Yet I always felt that our Heavenly Father; who looks farther down life's pathway than we can and see some great something and in his great mercy takes the child that the mother may be spared something, some horror worse than death. Our Father gives us a delightful remedy—His Grace—and tells us to trust Him. A trust like that of Job's, when he had lost all—family property and health—he cried out : Though He slay me yet will I trust Him, will heal all wounds, will remove all mountains of difficulty and struggle ; a quick change came in Job's affairs and condition and it is written 'his last days were better than his first.'

May God, our Father, supply the afflicted one with a

sufficiency of grace for her distressing needs and enable her to look up even through her briny tears and say with her almost broken heart 'Oh, Father, Thy will be done,' and do Thou supply Thy grieving suffering hand-maiden with grace to meekly kiss Thy hand. Oh! if she could get just there, I feel assured she would have found the secret place of the Almighty and then she would dwell under the shadow of His wing, in sweet, calm, perfect submission and her position would be holy joy and peace. May Jesus, the burden bearer, the great warm hearted sympathizer, minister to this bereaved mother as no other being can, and soothe her sorrowing heart until she responds; 'My Faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary.'

The sore afflicted Christian is purified and sweetened in spirit and somehow I have always believed their requests are taken straight to the Father in Heaven upon the swift and ready wing of the Holy Spirit and the Father's ear is gotten ready and the answer ready: 'Let it be as Thy patient child desires.'

Oh, Lord God, I thank Thee for the precious thought that comes to me of Thy love, Thy mercy, Thy mystery, even. For Thou art God, and who can understand Thee. It is enough that Thou hast taught us to call Thee 'Our Father,' through Thy blessed Son, our Elder Brother, our Saviour."

JULY 14, 1895.

*Woman can fill a far sweeter place in this world of ours than man can possibly fill, if she knew it, and God looks on and approves and smiles. I should covet words from the aged saint's experience as she looks upon the western horizon of her life and I think just now based upon what you have told me of her, that when her sun sets there will be no darkness for her. The radiance of the face of the Lamb of God will shine away all darkness and a Heavenly throng will make brilliant her ascent to the Heavenly Home. (A prayer for her.)

*Writing of a great sufferer, and woman's work.

Oh! Blessed Saviour, Thou friend of the burden-bearer; Thou who has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and heavy laden and I will give you rest," stand close to this weary saint of Thine and touch her pain-stricken body with the outflow of Thy compassion and ease her pain; as Thou alone canst do, but above all, give her to feel and know Thy presence with her to sustain and support. Shine away all darkness from around her and let her soul be filled with the brightness of the light of Thy countenance until she shall rejoice in the sweetness of Thy approving Grace and her whole soul shall say Amen. Thy will be done, Oh! my Father, in Heaven, Amen.

I had a sweet but sorrowful experience last night. The day before we had buried an old friend of mine from our church. The widowed wife and lonely daughter were broken hearted and yesterday afternoon her son came and said his mother wanted to see me. As I met them, as I expected, their grief renewed its strength and I felt deeply for them. After a little while I succeeded in calming them, and then I strove to lead them to Christ: I took them to the grave of Lazarus and showed them the pitying, weeping Redeemer: I took them to the bedside of Jairus' daughter, showed them God as their Redeemer: I took them at last, to Calvary and showed them the sacrifice made for them: I took them to complete the victory won for them to the open, empty tomb, and mount of ascension and to the right hand of God's throne to plead for them; and Oh! how they listened. And now I said let us kneel and lay our sorrows down at His feet and ask Him to help us say "Oh! Father, Thy will be done" and when we arose they both wept, but it was quiet weeping and trusting and I bade them good night with earnest "God bless you and keep you near His side," and as I walked to my home I felt so happy, so peaceful, so complacent. I had been with God, with His wounded and sorely afflicted children, and to me it seemed He was saying "My child, my child," and to me that

was sweet, more glorious work and experience than striving for public honors. I prayed that God might fit me for whatever He had for me to do or suffer. Whomsoever He has His eye upon in special prayer is always safe. Ask God to guide and impress me."

"How one trembles sometimes when the plummet of truth from God's word is erected before him. It seems so hard to live up to it. It is then I fly to the infinite righteousness of Christ who died for me."

"I have been grieved from time to time to hear of your painful affliction and have hoped for your speedy recovery and restoration to good and buoyant health again. I thought I would write and perhaps cheer you up, as your mind might run back over the thirty or more years it has been my privilege to class you among my friends.

Oh! how the years have flown; as we have both grown older every year, and I trust, through the Blood of Christ, and His redeeming Grace, nearer our Eternal Home, where all this sickness, pain, trouble, parting, death and all the train of evils our sins have brought upon us shall be no more forever.

Sometimes, my dear friend, I dare to (trusting in Christ) contemplate a re-union, not only with my family connections, but with old friends whom I have been permitted to gather by the wayside of life's path and with them—they and I washed in the shed blood of Jesus and made clean and pure—sit down under the tree of Eternal life and on the banks of the River that flows from the throne of God, and converse of life in this world in all its varied phases, but chiefly of our redemption from sin. I am almost ready to shout when I think that after all our folly and our waywardness, this redemption was had by so simple, costless and easy means of Grace, belief in the Son of God and coming of Him, saying, though stained with sin, though corrupt by my life, "Oh! Lamb of God I come, I come," and then bliss of pardon, the new garment of Salvation; the signet ring; the fatted calf; the Royal feast of Heavenly

Love. I am praying our Father may comfort you and strengthen you and restore you to health, that you may give Him the Glory; and we may, when my exile work is over, enjoy each other's society yet many years at my dear old home, Amen.

I could fill pages just now were I to give way to the reveries that come floating through my mind, and with the affections for friends, some living and working yet, yes, and sorrowing too, some of them, many crossed over the River, and blessed be God for the assurance I have that they are safe and happy beyond all chance, and if faithful I may meet them again.

Oh ! my friend, let your unworthy brother urge you in the midst of your sufferings to lean on the sympathetic and loving heart of Jesus, Son of man, Son of God, and may He bless you with great peace, fortitude and faith, and if in His wisdom it is best for you and your loved ones, to speedily restore you.

"Your opening remarks in regard to human friendship struck every chord of my heart into one harmonious strain. Oh ! where it is true ; where it is so strong that it makes self-sacrifice easy ; where one's soul can find repose in realization, it is akin to Heaven and Heavenly society. I believe our God smiles upon and blesses human friendships and delights in them.

"Yes ; how precious are human friendships. Glimpses of Heavenly society ! By the help of God, I mean here, there and everywhere to drop a seed, looking for a harvest of good, as I go along."

"It affords me great pleasure to issue you a certificate, and you will accept it with my best compliments and earnest wishes for your entire success throughout your life's pathway, and my earnest prayer is that God, our Father, may bless you abundantly and endow you with wisdom, justice and great prudence, so that thus qualified and fitted for the broad field of

our vital work, and working, praying and waiting, at life's close you may meet your King with sheaves in your hands, saying : "Oh, Lord, my King, here are these I have by Thy grace gleaned for God's great garner," and He will say, "Well done."

"I have learned long ago that were there no shadows there were no light and the denser the shadow the more intense the light; so now, when the shadow comes I turn instantly and look to the light. Lo! when I turn again the shadow has fled and is gone and it is the most beautiful lesson I have ever learned; because it takes me to Him, the light, who always releives me in His own best way. The clouds will pass and the sun will shine the brighter for the short obscurity."

"A great, dark, black cloud and storm is raging without, rain and wind are making high carnival, while the subtle fluids flash sharply, through the scene. It makes me think of Him *whose footsteps are from mountain top to mountain top, whose chariot is the cloud and whose steed is the storm, but whose chief delight is mercy.*"

"You have given me a new and grand expression, 'but God's will is our rule.' Where did you get it from under the shadow of the wings of the Almighty for it is written; *he, who shall find God's secret place, shall dwell in safety in the shadow of His wing.*"

APRIL 11, 1895.

I found a note from my pastor asking me to take charge of the mid-week prayer meeting, of course I complied and selected the last chapter of Revelation as the lesson, and my theme was the *Infinite love and mercy of God*; as I showed in what He had done for mankind and then unfolded the happy condition of the saved soul, in an elevated life, in such circumstances and conditions as are described in that blessed chapter; as I read the note I quit everything and went to thinking and studying in order that I might be prepared to honor God and

bless and benefit my Christian brother, and whoever else might hear me. I think whatever special work we do for God ought to be done as carefully and intelligently as it is possible for us to do."

"As I lifted my voice in the midst of the congregation I can scarcely tell you how my heart went out to God for my people."

"Sometimes I think the greatest punishment of the guilty conscience, is that God's great *detective* the human conscience sits like an awful nightmare glaring into the sin oppressed soul and there can be no sleep there. Alas! this, I think is what the old Greeks had in their semi-heathen minds, when they conceived the myth of the river of Lethe, from which the oppressed might drink and drown and forget all their past, especially its woes. Oh! they had not heard of the fountain opened up in the House of David, whence the healing tide has ever flown into which the *most lost* may plunge and be washed and made whiter than snow; well hath the poet said, 'Balmy sleep, wearied natures sweet restorer.'"

"There is something about poetry that I think the world could scarcely get along without. There are times and supreme moments when the poet can minister to the wound of heart and spirit, when no other one human can. There are thoughts which cannot be fully expressed except by the poets and therefore much license has been given them, in language, in emphasis and punctuation."

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., November 30, 1895.

General J. J. Finley :

MY DEAR SIR AND FRIEND—The announcement of the Golden Anniversary of your marriage on the twentieth present, was received at the P. O., on the 26th as stamped, during a temporary absence, hence the delay in replying to your valued remembrance and a circumstance with so much interest to all who know you, and are acquainted with your grand life and character.

My Dear General, I cannot help rejoicing in your privilege of looking back upon a life so long and so well spent, and teeming with its salutary influence on every hand.

I look upon your age and long life as an honor guised in blessing coming directly from God's own hand; and feel somehow I have a right to rejoice with you, in Divine recognition, reward and approval.

And now under the very laws of nature itself, as your gaze must be fixed upon the western horizon of life's limit, may I not pray Our Father to make it resplendent, with the light of His countenance, who is our Redeemer and as He passes to you His staff and rod, may you be comforted and stayed, so that the coming last years may be after all the best, the most joyful.

After all, Dear General, the Dark River so much dreaded by many, is very narrow, and illuminated on the opposite shore with the very Glory of Him, who declared, "It is finished," when He expired upon the cross for us, shall stand, and as I think of it just now, I fancy there are loved ones waiting on the other side with lamps taken from the altar of God, which they hold aloft as they shout, this way to us, who may be crossing. Oh! there is not too much to be expected from the mercy of our God and Father.

Dear General, may you be spared many years yet to review the past, and to drop the golden seeds, gathered from the fields of experience for the benefit of the younger, and may your last years be your happiest, may serene, sweet peace be your happy lot, a ripening golden sheaf for God's great Garner, in Everlasting Glory; is the earnest wish and prayer of

Your admiring and sincere friend,

ALBERT J. RUSSELL.

[Major A. J. Russell was invited to be present and address the ladies of Newnan Street Presbyterian Church and the ladies of McTyre Memorial Church. The "Orange Blossoms" were invited to meet with them at this Missionary Tea at Mrs. T. Hartridge's Oct. 9, 1895.

GOD'S PROMISE TO HIS SON.

"I will give Him the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession." The Holy Spirit helped me and I was exceedingly happy in my thought. I showed how every effort in the line that they were working was co-working with God the Father in Heaven in the preparation of the present He had promised His Son, and I sought to encourage them in their work. Speaking to the youth and children I said, "How glad you are when you are promised a nice present on some day of gift-making and how it rejoices you when the present comes and how absorbed you are in contemplating it. Well, now, I want you to remember that God your Father in Heaven and the Father of our Blessed Lord has promised a great present and he is getting ready and has been for years. He is depending upon His chosen instruments, His children upon the earth to get the present ready. It is a great present. It is a converted world, redeemed from all sin and impurity, and His Son will and does love His present infinitely, now won't you like to know that you are helping to get this great present ready for your Saviour who has done so much for you? God bless the children of my country. They have souls speaking to me of qualities immortal and eternal."

* I thank God my Father that he gave me so much more of love than any other attribute of human nature. What is Heaven but love from the Great White Throne down to the humblest most unhonored of men and unsung. If I am so happy as to reach the Pearly Gates and tread the Golden Streets, I shall; if permitted to, look up these humble ones and ask them to be my friends, for from them can be had the very cream of redemption.

John, in his vision saw a great throng close to the throne of God in spotless white robes, and the loving John asked the angel, "Why are these hundred and forty-four thousand close

* Extract from his last talk to his fellowmen, Dec. 8, 1896, at the County Hospital.

around the throne of God clad in white? Who are they?" And promptly the answer came, "They are those who came up through great tribulation." and my soul said to me, "Tell the suffering ones of earth to hold fast their faith, a glorious time is coming for them as they shall stand before the throne in the very presence of God, who redeemed them." He said, "God gave him a big heart and sometimes it would overflow." I wonder if there lives a poor soul on earth who has never had in his or her breast the pulsing movement of this sweet love; if there is such an one I pity that one, and would if I could help it to the same rich absorbing influence I would tell such a desolate one, with love the heart becomes a free fertile garden, glowing with sunshine and warm hues and exhaling sweet odors; but without love it is a blank desert, covered with ashes. Love in our hearts and natures, is to them what genial warmth and light of the sun is to the fruits and flowers, causing life to spring up within them in the perfumes of lusciousness, fragrance and varied tints and hues of rarest colors. Do I overdraw the real picture? That I have not I bring as my first best proof the declaration, *God is love*.

Our God is not a great range of mountains, nor yet a vast continent, nor yet a great planet world with its belt of perpetual light; but listen while I tell you,

God is Love.

God never would send you the darkness
 If he felt you could bear the light;
 But you would not cling to His guiding hand
 If the way were always bright;
 And you would not care to walk by faith,
 Could you always walk by sight.

'Tis true he has many an anguish
 For your sorrowful heart to bear,
 And many a cruel thorn-crown
 For your tired head to wear;
 He knows how few would reach Heaven at all
 If pain did not guide them there.

Then nestle your hand in your Father's,
 And sing, if you can, as you go;
 Your song may cheer some one behind you
 Whose courage is sinking low.
 And, well, if your lips do quiver—
 God will love you the better so.

CHAPTER XX.

OBSEQUIES.

“Lovingly lay that form to rest,
In some beautiful, quiet spot;
Gently strew the earth over his breast
And plant the ‘Forget-Me-Not’—
Though the hue of death is on his brow
And all his life-labor done,
He must not sleep forgotten now,
For his souls’-life just begun.”

At the dawning of a new day and in the beginning of a new year the earthly existence of Hon. A. J. Russell ceased yesterday. He calmly passed into that blessed sleep from which none wake to weep. Not only was the announcement of his death received throughout the city with profound sorrow, but the State also. Major Russell was well known and universally esteemed in every section of Florida and counted his friends by the thousands. He was a self-made man and naturally had as warm a heart for the humble and destitute as he had for the noble and distinguished. He, himself, had experienced the bitter adversities of life and knew well the vicissitudes through which others passed, and they always had his heartfelt sympathy. He stood upon the broad platform of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. He exemplified this fully in his devotion to the Public School interests of the State, beginning as superintendent of the public schools of this city. He brought them up to a high standard, and through his arduous labors, proved so well fitted for such work that for nine years he held the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, having received the appointment from three different Governors. He put his very soul into educational work and distinguished himself and brought new honors upon the State. Not only the white, but the colored children had a true friend in Major Russell, as he was a strong advocate for the education of the colored children, and he always disapproved any attempt at the abridgment of their school privileges.

His devotion to the interests of the city and State was of the most sincere nature, as was proven on many occasions. His voice was most eloquent and his pen most forcible when the honor and dignity of his people and home were imperiled. In the darkest days of the reconstruction period he stood in the thickest of the fight for Southern rights, just as he had done on the field of battle. He never flinched from duty and was always ready to bear his part to the best of his ability. But his crowning

glory was found in his love of church and charitable societies, where he was a bright and shining light, cheering the despondent and encouraging the doubtful to work for that hope which lay beyond this transitory existence. He now sleeps well after life's fitful fever and goes to receive the reward promised those who hold out faithful to the end, while those he has left behind sorrow and mourn his final departure from among them.

—*Citizen.*

Masonic Hall was wrapped in mourning. The old and young; the rich and poor; the white and colored; of every occupation and class; from the city and from the country; those in high stations and those in humble life came to pay the last tribute of respect.

The mortal remains of Major A. J. Russell were carried in procession yesterday through crowds of citizens who lined the way and attended by a long *cortege* of representatives of various organizations to McTyeire Memorial Church, where the religious services were held, and from the Church to the city cemetery, where they were laid in their last resting place with full Masonic honors.

The deceased was a Mason of high standing, and for the past three years was Secretary of the Grand Lodge of this State. The body had been lying in Masonic Temple for two days and was viewed by many of the former comrades and friends of the deceased, and when the time for the funeral approached the members of the Grand Lodge and of Duval Lodge of this city took charge of the arrangements.

The funeral was the largest seen in Jacksonville and the procession would have been still larger but for the fact that the friends of the deceased, who were not members of the organizations in line, did not join the *cortege*.

The procession was formed at the Masonic Temple at 3 o'clock, and was arranged as follows:

Squad of police, under command of Lieutenant Tyler and headed by Sergeant Brough; The Second Battalion Band; Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Representatives of Grand Lodge, deputation from local lodges and trustees of the Odd Fellows' Home; Knights of Honor; United Confederate Veterans, members of R. E. Lee camp and trustees of the Confederate Veterans' Home; Grand Army of the Republic; Sons of Temperance, Grand Lodge and Duval Division; Jacksonville Light Infantry, under command of Captain Driscoll; Jacksonville Rifles, under command of Captain LeFils; Mayor Bostwick, the city council and other city officials; Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Jurisdiction of Florida; The remains; Pall-bearers; These with the organizations they represented, were as follows: Charles W. DaCosta, representing the family; D. A. Cook, McTyeire Memorial Church; George S. Hallmark, Masonic Grand Lodge; I. Grunthal, Duval Lodge, F. & A. M.; T. G. Hutchinson, Grand Lodge Independent Order

of Odd Fellows; C. D. Rinehart, Florida Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Edward Williams, Grand Lodge Sons of Temperance; J. E. Johnson, Knights of Honor; Wm. Baya, United Confederate Veterans; F. P. Fleming, Confederate Veterans' Home; E. F. Gilbert, R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans; J. S. Fairhead, Grand Army of the Republic; F. Pasco, the schools; Carriages containing family and friends of the deceased.

From the Masonic Temple the *cortege* proceeded through Forsyth Street to Main, through Main to Duval and through Duval to McTyeire Memorial Church. The large auditorium of the church was completely filled with the sorrowing friends of the deceased, and many were unable to find seats. The Church service was conducted by Rev. R. T. DuBose, assisted by Rev. W. H. Dodge, of the Newnan Street Presbyterian Church. The services were as follows:

Reading of the resurrection; Hymn, "Rock of Ages," by the choir; reading of nineteenth Psalm; anthem, "Rest, Spirit Rest," solo by Miss Daisy Whistler; reading of the lesson, chosen from I. Corinthians xv.; prayer; hymn, "It is Well with My Soul," by the choir; Chopin's "Funeral March," by the organist.

The readings by Rev. DuBose were most impressive, and the prayer by Rev. Dodge was full of sympathetic feeling and of the spirit of submission to the Divine will. The music had been carefully rehearsed, and was rendered with much expression and effect, particularly Miss Whistler's solo in the anthem. After the services in the Church were concluded, the procession again formed and proceeded to the city cemetery, where the interment was made with full Masonic honors.

Past Grand Master W. A. McLean conducted the services at the grave in behalf of Most Worshipful Grand Master James W. Boyd. He read the solemn service for the dead, after which the grand officers of the Lodge assembled around the grave, rendered to the memory of the deceased the mysterious honors due a Past Grand Master. Then followed the touching ceremony of the throwing of a spray of evergreen into the grave by each member, symbolic of the cherishing of the brother's memory, concluding with these words, accompanied by expressive gestures:

"We commend his spirit to God, who gave it. We cherish his memory here. We commit his body to the ground." Then followed an earnest prayer by Past Grand Master McLean, which was listened to with the most intense interest by those assembled.

The services concluded with the throwing of three shovels full of earth into the open grave, and so was laid away, beneath the earth placed by the hands of his surrounding brothers, the earthly portion of Past Grand Master A. J. Russell, but his memory will remain fresh as long as life warms the hearts which have loved him.—Times-Union.

We wept—'twas Nature wept, but Faith
Can pierce beyond the gloom of death,

And in yon, world so fair and bright,
Behold thee in refulgent light!
We miss thee here, yet Faith would rather
Know thou art with thy Heavenly Father.

Nature sees the body dead,
Faith beholds the spirit fled;
Nature stops at Jordan's tide,
Faith beholds the other side;
That but hears farewell and sighs,
This thy welcome to the skies.

Nature mourns a cruel blow,
Faith assures it is not so;
Nature never sees thee more—
Faith but sees thee gone before;
Nature tells a dismal story—
Faith has visions full of glory;
Nature views the change with sadness,
Faith contemplates it with gladness.

Nature murmurs—Faith gives meekness,
Strength is perfected in weakness;
Nature writhes and hates the rod,
Faith looks up and blesses God;
Sense looks downward, Faith above,
That sees harshness, this sees love,
Oh! let Faith victorious be,
Let it reign triumphantly!

But thou art gone; not lost but flown;
Shall I then ask thee back, my own—
Back and leave thy spirit's brightness?
Back and leave thy robes of whiteness?
Back and leave thine angel fold?
Back and leave those streets of gold?
Back and leave the Lamb who feeds thee?
Back from founts to which he leads thee?

Back and leave thy Heavenly Father?
Back to earth and sin? Nay; rather
Would I live in solitude;
I would not ask thee if I could;
But patient wait the high decree
That calls my spirit Home to Thee.

THE END.



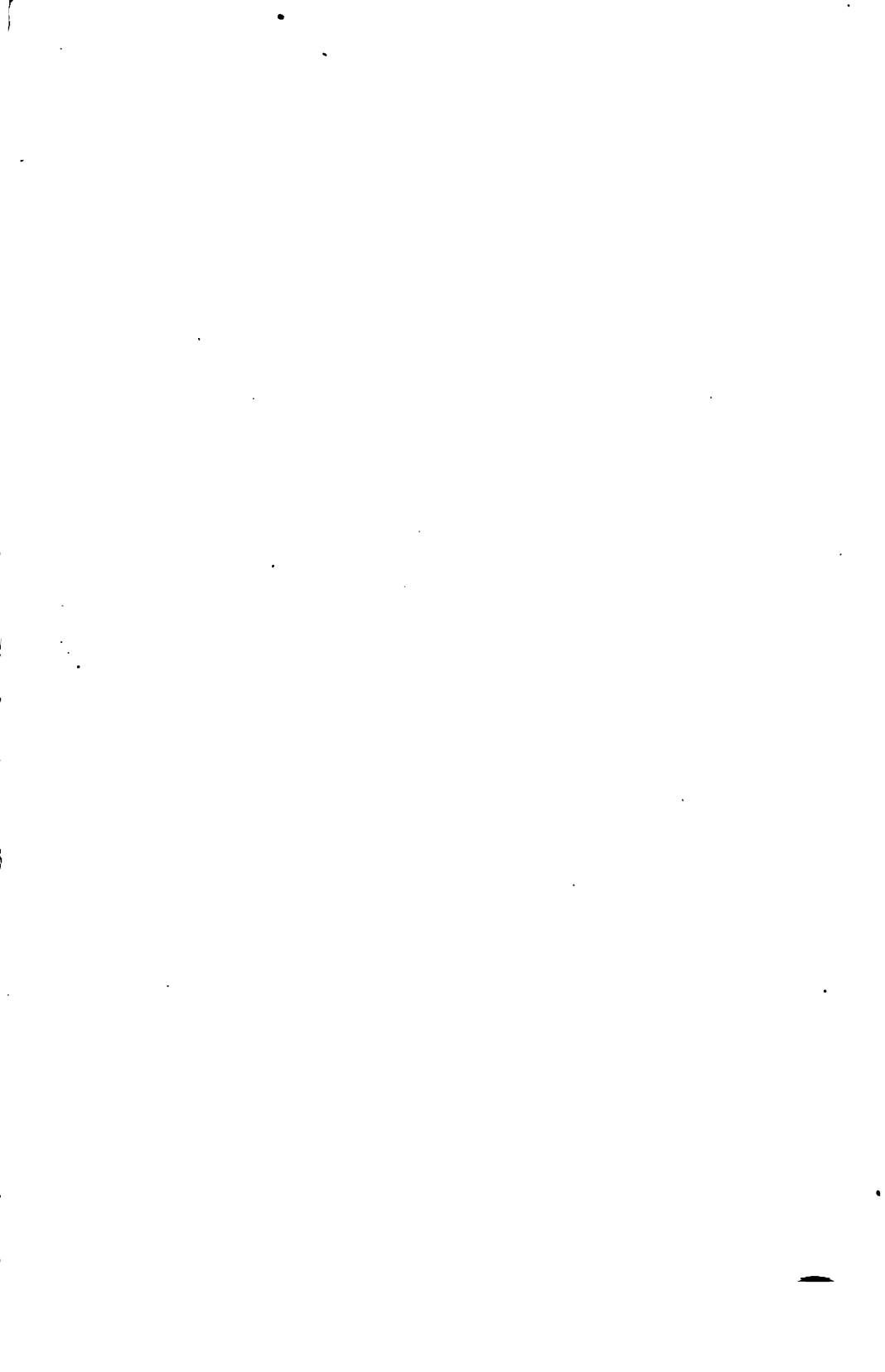
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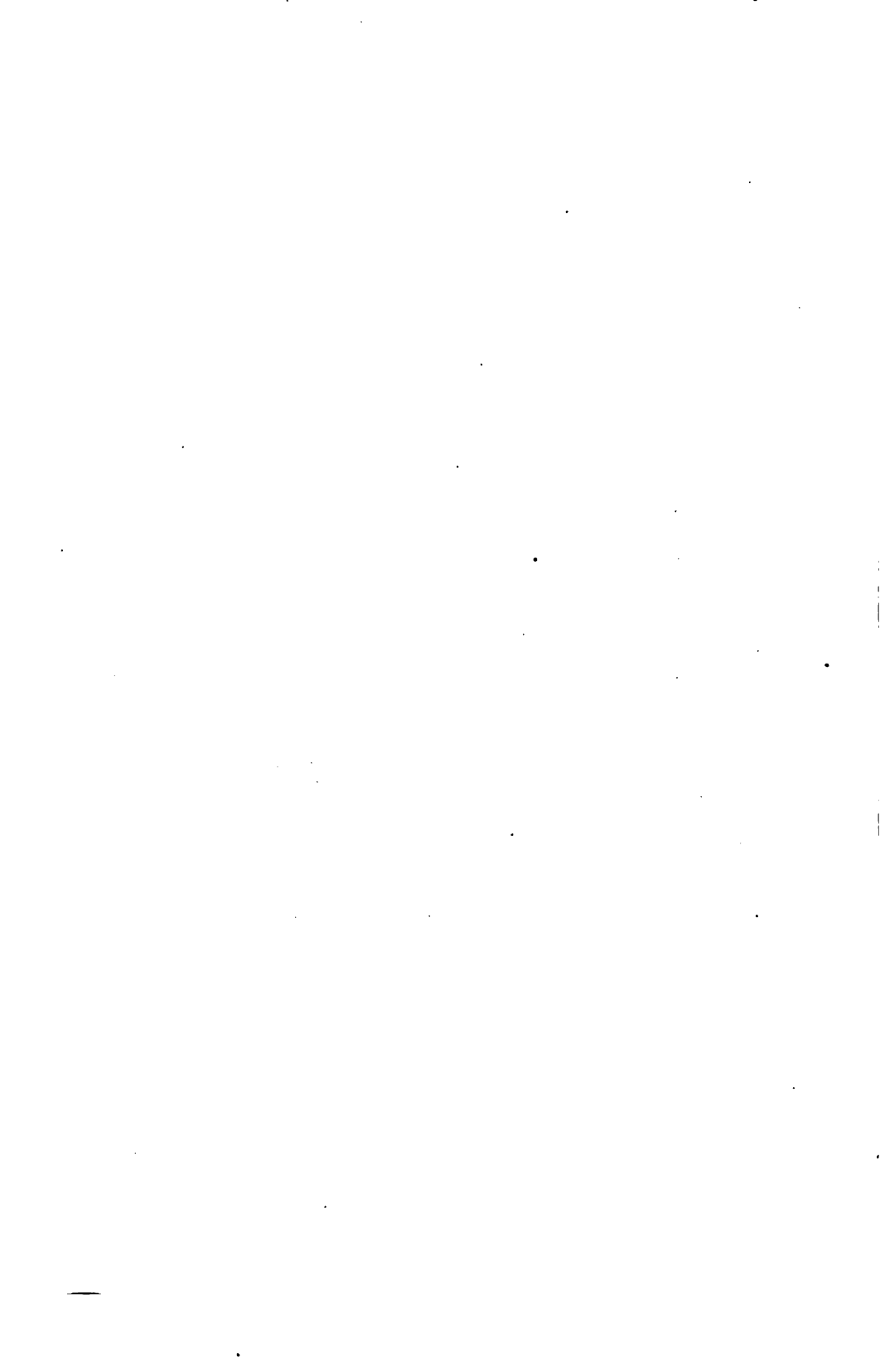
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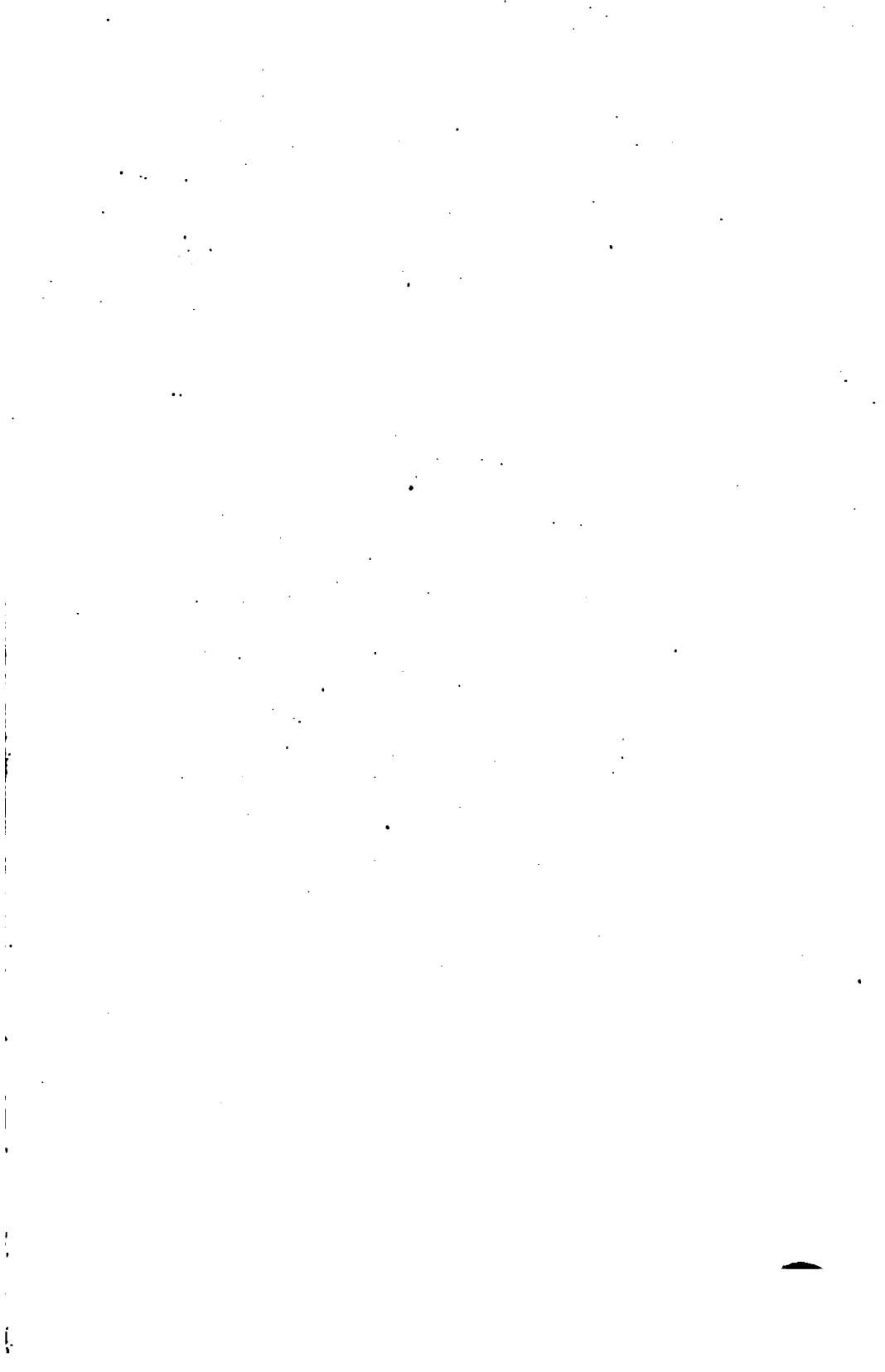
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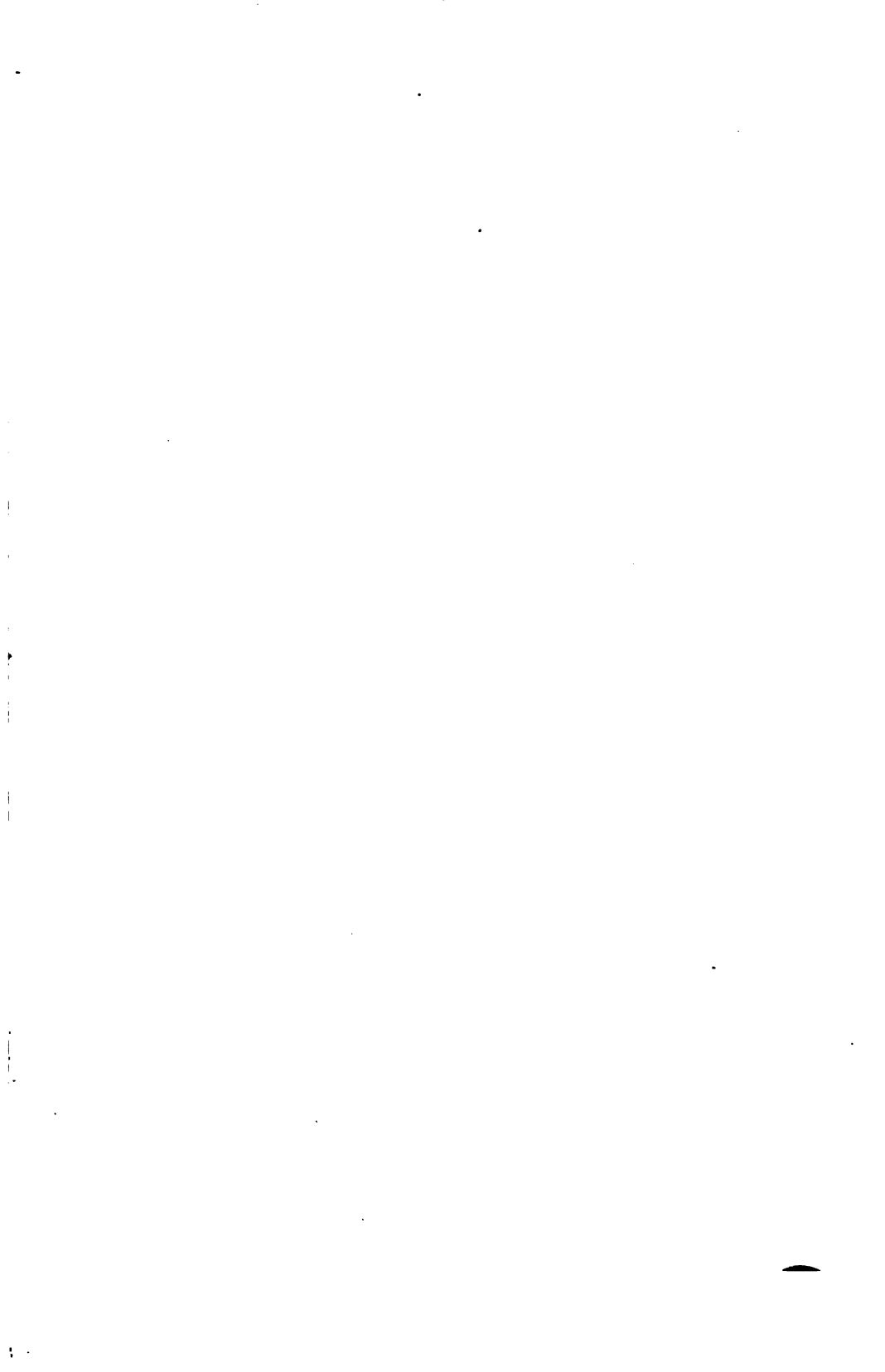












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